

U.S. plans to limit Iran oil sales

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration is drafting proposals aimed at limiting oil sales by Iran, White House officials said. White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said top advisers to President Clinton met and discussed increased sanctions on Iran. "They talked about additional measures related to oil and oil production," Mr. McCurry said. Mr. McCurry said Mr. Clinton's top national security advisers were in the process of drafting moves to increase economic pressure on Iran, but declined to discuss specifics under consideration. "They will be working reasonably swiftly," Mr. McCurry said. Another administration official, who asked not to be identified, said the advisers recommended prohibiting U.S. oil companies from buying petroleum from Iran. That ban would be included in the formal recommendations that will be given to Mr. Clinton, the official said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراية

Queen receives Seeds of Peace Award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday accepted the 1995 "Seeds of Peace" Award at a formal banquet dinner held in her honor in New York. John Wallach, the founder of "Seeds of Peace," offered this tribute to Queen Noor for her "distinguished contributions towards making the Middle East a safer and more secure region for the next generations." The U.N. Secretary General Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali welcomed the Queen saying "the road to peace will be long and hard... but also has joyful occasions like this one... we have travelled far together with confidence in the value of our final goals. The Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty is a step on the way to a just comprehensive peace settlement. Your Majesty, you and your husband have been firm in your commitment to a just peace; your cause is vindicated today." In her acceptance speech, Queen Noor said "we must acknowledge and constantly renew our commitment to address the challenges that still confront all of us in the region: most importantly, the primary and overarching objective of a comprehensive regional peace... that would ensure the national rights, territorial integrity and security of all peoples." This peace, the Queen noted, would enable human and national resources to be channelled into development rather than military priorities. Queen Noor expressed her hope that the Jordanian-Israeli accord will serve as a catalyst for progress toward an enduring peace whose fruits are shared by all.

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Israeli troops shoot Palestinian

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli troops on Wednesday shot and wounded a Palestinian as he tried to enter the Jewish state illegally, the Palestinian police chief here said. General Ghazi Jabali said the incident took place at the Erez crossing between the autonomous Gaza Strip and Israel.

Bahrain: 7 confess in police attack

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain said on Wednesday that seven Bahrainis had admitted involvement in a petrol bomb attack on a police car last month. One officer was killed and two others seriously injured. An Interior Ministry spokesman, quoted by local newspapers, said the suspects "have admitted to a judge that they lay in wait for a public security Land Rover... and then hurled molotov cocktail bombs at the vehicle." "Investigations were continuing into this criminal act and all members of the group would appear before the (state security) court later."

Powell remains coy on presidential race

SALEM (AFP) — Colin Powell, the soldier who climbed the ranks to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now a popular presidential choice, has not ruled out an independent bid for the White House. "I've checked the constitution very carefully, and you do not have to belong to a political party" to run for the office, Mr. Powell said as he took questions from some 3,200 people gathered at Salem State College Tuesday night. Mr. Powell, who has not publicly stated if he is a Republican or Democrat, said both parties offer appealing aspects. However, he said he would put off deciding on his political future until September after he finishes his autobiography.

Greece arrests 29 Iraqi immigrants

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek authorities arrested 29 Iraqi immigrants Wednesday on a small island northeast of Khios, in the eastern Aegean, where they had just landed from Turkey, police reported. They said the immigrants, including seven women and 14 children, were apprehended after a Turkish ferry dumped them on Oinoussa, only a few kilometres from Turkey, before fleeing. Khios coast-guard officers had been tipped off about their impending arrival by an informer and were lying in wait.

BCCI trial deferred

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Ten former Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) executives appeared in court here Wednesday accused of fraud and other offences but hearings were later adjourned to June 14 after the judge asked lawyers to try and bring back three absent defendants, court officials said.

Israel forgives \$1.26b kibbutz debt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's failing communal farms won a second chance Wednesday, when the government decided to forgive \$1.3 billion in debts. Critics said the government was buying votes and wasting tax money on the communities, known as kibbutzim, which house only three per cent of Israel's 5.5 million population. But cabinet ministers said they wanted to preserve the egalitarian kibbutz movement, which despite economic setbacks remains a prized symbol of the Zionist movement. Kibbutz leaders welcomed the 18-member cabinet's unanimous decision, which comes after years of negotiating how to deal with the kibbutzim's \$5.9 billion shekel (\$2 billion) debt.

King Hussein in excellent health

Monarch informs Regent; Prince Hassan expresses joy at good news

AMMAN (Petra) — Physicians have found His Majesty King Hussein in excellent health, the King said in a letter to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday. "It gives me great pleasure to inform you and my dear Jordanian family... that all the results of all the tests I underwent, two years after surgery to remove cancerous cells, have confirmed that no trace of cancer was found and that there was no indication that the cancer would reappear," the King assured the Regent in the letter sent from New York. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left for the U.S. on March 22. On Tuesday they arrived in New York from Rochester where His Majesty underwent regular medical check-ups at the Mayo Clinic. In a reply letter, Prince Hassan expressed delight at the good news and said: "I express the delight and joy that filled my heart and the hearts of all Jordanians to hear the news of your good health. You will remain the teacher and the leader for us all."

Arafat slams Hamas for Gaza 'bomb factory' amid crackdown

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat went on the attack against Hamas hardliners Wednesday as Palestinian police rounded up 10 militants and a journalist after a deadly bomb blast in the heart of the city. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said police detained 10 militants at home in a pre-dawn raid on the Shatti refugee camp and Sheikh Radwan district where Sunday's blast which killed at least five people occurred. "To store explosives in one of Gaza's most densely populated areas is a serious affair, very serious," Mr. Arafat said at a public meeting. "Stores (of explosives) in one of the most densely populated areas in Gaza?" Mr. Arafat said. "Now I have the right to ask, 'how many stores are there?' It's my responsibility to every child, to every family, to every man, to every woman, to save them from these stores." Among those detained Wednesday by Mr. Arafat's security forces was pro-Hamas journalist Taher Nunu, who wrote in a newspaper article Tuesday that the chemicals found at the Hamas hideout could not have caused the powerful blast. Also arrested were Jada-

lah Jaddallah, a Hamas leader in Sheikh Radwan, and his 18-year-old son, Bilal. One of Mr. Jaddallah's sons had been involved in the October kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) insists that the place of the explosion was a Hamas bomb factory, in a three-storey apartment, and that the blast occurred as militants were handling explosives. But Hamas has charged that it was an Israeli attack, in collaboration with the self-rule authority. Mr. Arafat also said that Israeli army explosives were found at the scene of the blast. But Mr. Arafat, head of the PNA, stopped short of directly accusing Israel of involvement in the explosion. In an apparent reference to Hamas, he said people should be working to improve the lives of the children of Gaza rather than building bombs in residential areas. Mr. Arafat added: "Some of these explosive materials had 'Tsalah' (the Hebrew acronym for Israel Defence Forces) written on them." He also said some of the explosives had reached Gaza through the southern Israeli port of Ashdod. Palestinian officials have suggested in the past that elements in Israel had en-

tered into a secret alliance with Hamas in a common effort to wreck the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal. Asked on Wednesday about the allegations of a clandestine relationship, Mr. Arafat said ambiguously: "Who does it (the explosive material) belong to? To the fishermen? To the birds?" Israel has said it had nothing to do with the Gaza explosion which killed Kamal Khell, a wanted Hamas guerrilla. Meanwhile, fresh questions arose about the cause of the blast as well as the number of killed and their identities. Palestinian police said the explosion was a "work accident" during the assembly of a bomb, while Hamas claimed Israel and Mr. Arafat's security forces conspired to set off the explosion. The Israeli daily Davar, quoting unidentified Palestinian journalists, suggested Wednesday that Israel's Shin Bet security service may have learned about the location of the bomb factory from an activist of Hamas' military wing Izzedine Al Qassam. The activist, Wissam Farhat, had driven a truck laden with explosives into Israel last month, but was caught before he could de-



Members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) shoot in the air on Wednesday in Gaza City, during a rally for Kamal Khell, 23, who was killed in the April 2 bomb. PLO leader Yasser Arafat went on the attack against Hamas hardliners Wednesday as Palestinian police rounded up militants after Sunday's blast (AFP photo)

Israeli spy satellite over Syria, Iraq and Iran

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Syria, Iran and Iraq are in the path of an Israeli spy satellite launched on Wednesday which will circle the Earth every 90 minutes, an Israeli official said. "The satellite will (travel) from east to west along a latitude of 37 degrees," said a spokesman for state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries which built the Ofek 3 satellite. The path will take the satellite almost directly above Damascus, whose latitude is 36 degrees. It will also pass about 150 kilometres north of Tehran and 400 kilometres north of Baghdad. Israel is engaged in slow-moving peace talks with Syria and has said it must have early-warning arrangements in place before making any withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. "Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf war. Israel has said Iran is dedicated to its destruction. The fact that they are developing a spy satellite is not unknown," said Marcia Smith, a specialist in aerospace policy for the Congressional Research Service in Washington. "It was clear from the very first satellite launch that is what they had in mind." Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said in March 1991, a week after the end of the Gulf war, that Israel may eventually launch its own spy satellite. At the time, Israel

was upset over Washington's refusal to share all satellite pictures on Iraq. Israeli newspaper reports said Israel decided not to share space research, particularly the Ofek programme, because it feared leaks in the United States. The first spy satellite was put into orbit with Israel's own launcher from Palmachim base south of Tel Aviv. "I have the pleasure to announce that we have successfully launched Ofek-3 and that it has already made a first tour" of the Earth, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said at a military ceremony broadcast on radio. The satellite was the third launched by Israel, following two experimental satellites put into orbit in 1988 and 1990. Its official mission is to carry out scientific, commercial and technological work, but according to the Israeli press it is a spy satellite. Israel's space agency director, Avi Har Even, acknowledged it could be used for military purposes. "This satellite is in fact a platform on which you can put anything you want," he said. The satellite stands on a platform made up of three parts and holding telecommunications instruments, it said. It will be in orbit at between 400 and 700 kilometres from the Earth. Experts involved in the

20 injured in brawl at University of Jordan

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Fighting among students at the University of Jordan on Wednesday left more than 20 students injured, three of them seriously, eyewitnesses said. One witness told the Jordan Times that the clash, which started at 9:30 a.m. at the university's main square, involved a group of students of Circassian origin and a group of students from Salt town. The eyewitness said the violence appeared to have been sparked by an incident two days ago when a student from Salt allegedly harassed a Circassian girl. The girl told her Circassian friends about the incident and the Circassian students beat up the student from Salt, "according to the eyewitness." "After this incident the student who was beaten up called his friends and they went to the square where usually the Circassian students gather and started fighting with them," he said. Another student said the brawl, in which knives and clubs were freely used, started when a student from Salt went and sat in an area where Circassians student always sat and thus challenged the Circassian students. "Two days ago an argument started between the Circassian student and the students from Salt because he sat in their territory and they asked him to leave. Instead they all started cursing and threatening each other," the student said. The student added that the student from Salt called his friends on Wednesday and went to the square and started fighting with the Circassian students. According to another eyewitness who was watching the fight from a distance, more than 100 students were involved in the fight that started with fist fighting and throwing rocks. "University security tried to intervene to end the fight but they failed because the numbers of students engaged in the fight were five times more than the security," the eyewitness told the Jordan Times. Moreover, another eyewitness said, that after a short break, a group of Circassian students asked the Circassian female students to leave the

Jordan debt relief figures in Republicans' threat

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senate Republican leaders threatened on Tuesday to hold up emergency funding for the Pentagon and debt relief for Jordan if the White House did not support billions of dollars in domestic spending cuts. As Republicans and Democrats face off in an increasingly sharp dispute over spending, two bills are now before the Senate. One cuts \$13 billion from domestic welfare programmes like housing assistance for the poor and pays \$6.7 billion in disaster relief for California. The second provides \$2.5 billion necessary to pay for military operations in Haiti and elsewhere. "We're going to pass either both or neither," Republican whip Trent Lott of Mississippi told reporters after the weekly Republican luncheon. The White House considers the spending cuts too severe and has threatened to veto the house version, which cuts \$17.2 billion from spending already approved this year. Majority leader Robert Dole called on President Bill Clinton to support for the spending cuts or risk losing defence funds. The problem is the Senate recesses for three weeks Friday and must resolve nearly 100 democratic amendments, a task Mr. Dole said was impractical to even attempt. "If there is no interest in passing the supplemental (appropriations) bill — there doesn't appear to be hardly any in the White House — then it would be my intention to take the bill down. And we are not going past the other either," Mr. Dole said in a speech on the senate floor. Hoping to bring Mr. Clinton on board, Mr. Dole attached \$275 million in debt relief the White House had promised Jordan to the spending cuts.

Muasher heads for Tel Aviv today with clear goals

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Jordan's first ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, crosses the Sheikh Hussein Bridge today to take up his post in Tel Aviv. There, the 38-year-old spokesman-turned diplomat faces the challenge of building a peace burdened by a half-century legacy of hostility, faltering Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and eroding popular support for accommodation with the Jewish state. Dr. Muasher says he has no illusions about the challenges awaiting. "Jordan is fully committed to the peace treaty and to the implementation of all its articles but there is no doubt that building peace with Israel will be affected by what happens in the Palestinian track," he said. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Muasher explained that "if peace is to be permanent and comprehensive, the citizen of Jordan must feel that the Palestinian track is going in the right direction, and that the Palestinian component of the Arab-Israeli conflict is being tackled in an acceptable manner." "Short of that, it is difficult to perceive a peace that develops from being on the official level to being on the popular level. Peace at the people's level will take a much longer time than that at the government level. That is normal." The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty last October "does not mean that Jordan has abandoned the principle of a comprehensive settlement," Dr.



Marwan Muasher
Muasher insists. He says "all concerned Arab parties took a strategic decision in Madrid to negotiate peace with Israel, regardless whether progress was simultaneous in all tracks." "However, says circumstances may

emerge once in a while that would require us to slow down our moves for building peace with Israel, without that meaning the abandonment of our commitment to implement the treaty." Some senior ministers believe that Jordan should link the pace of normalisation with Israel to progress on the other tracks, especially the Palestinian-Israeli track and to the fulfillment of financial commitments to Jordan. Dr. Muasher, a computer engineer, says that the signing of the treaty "does not mean there are no problems between us and Israel," pointing to the problem of refugees and displaced persons and the dispute over Jerusalem. The former director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington D.C. points out that there were ongoing negotiations to conclude 24 agreements with Israel. On Tuesday, Jordan and Israel signed the first economic agreement since the ratification of the peace treaty. Tourism ministers Abdul Ilah Khatib and Uzi Baran signed an agreement which lifted a ceiling on the number of Israeli tourists allowed to visit Jordan and established a framework for cooperation in the field of tourism, including cooperation between the Royal Jordanian and El Al airlines. But so far most Jordanians do not appear eager to get to know Israelis or deal with them, let alone visit them. More than 17,000 Israelis have visited Jordan while fewer than 2,000 Jordanians have been to Israel. The country's 12 professional un-

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Clinton thinks U.S. can solve Iran dispute with Russia

WASHINGTON (Agency) — U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Tuesday that he believes the U.S. can resolve a dispute with Russia over a nuclear reactor sale to Iran, yet the administration sent mixed signals over whether it might compromise.

"We're going to have differences from time to time but I wouldn't assume we can't work this one out," Mr. Clinton said, speaking of relations with Russia, at a joint news conference with British Prime Minister John Major.

Russian officials said on Monday they planned to go ahead with the \$1 billion sale of light-water reactors to Iran despite strong American objections. Washington worries Iran will be able to use the technology and spent fuel to develop nuclear arms.

Russia's attitude is a stinging setback for the U.S. president, who recently decided to go to a May summit in Moscow despite protests on Capitol Hill and in his own administration over Russia's suppression of an independence revolt in Chechnya.

But the White House says it does not consider Moscow's "no" to be a final answer. Asked how he could keep the sale from going forward, Mr. Clinton told reporters without giving details that negotiations on the matter were continuing.

"We're having serious discussions, we're working it through," he said. "Some U.S. officials appeared to be trying to undo the impression given on Monday in Moscow by Defence Secretary William Perry, who was quoted as saying there were some conditions that would lower the risk if the Russian nuclear reactor sale to Iran went through."

But officials did not seem to rule out the idea of compromise. Asked if Mr. Perry's scenario was a viable one, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said: "Not at the moment."

"The secretary is very candid, and was talking about different scenarios that might develop as we address this question," Mr. McCurry told reporters.

"But as I indicated to you yesterday, there is a lot of dialogue left with the Russian Federation on this issue, more to follow," Mr. McCurry said.

John Holm, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, was asked by reporters under what conditions Washington would be comfortable with the Russian sale of reactors to Iran.

"It would be very hard to imagine conditions that would make us comfortable," he said. "We have been and will continue to press the Russians not to proceed with that sale."

Mr. Holm said, however, that there would likely be more than one chance for the sale to be halted.

"Keep in mind this is something that would be implemented over a period of several years at least. So there are a number of opportunities coming to shut it off."

"Obviously it is preferable to us and it would be in Russia's best interest to stop this project early, before substantial commitments are made to it," he said.

Mr. Clinton said on Tuesday he planned to go ahead with the May 9 summit "to pay our respect to the heroism of the Russian people" in World War II.

He noted that Russia had continued to honour its constitution and "obligations to democracy" and said the country had done better economically than he had thought it would a couple of years ago.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher separately reiterated a U.S. threat to block Russian entry into institutions such as the Group of Seven if Tehran received the Russian-made nuclear facility.

"Russia knows that no industrialised democracy deals with Iran on nuclear issues simply because it's too dangerous to do so," Mr. Christopher said in an address to the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organisation.

"The way Russia conducts itself on this and other matters will certainly affect the



Bill Clinton

evolution of its participation in western institutions," he said.

Mr. Christopher first made the threat last month in connection with the Russian offensive in Chechnya, citing in particular Moscow's desire to join the G-7 leading industrialised democracies.

At the United Nations, the Iranian mission accused Washington of a campaign against Tehran that "has become a self-defeating exercise in futility."

In a statement, Iran said it had complied with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but still drew fire from Washington.

"The United States administration puts itself above the law when its officials play the self-appointed role of the final arbiter of sufficiency or insufficiency of rules of international law," the statement said.

Mr. Clinton, who briefly discussed Moscow's Iranian deal with Mr. Major according to U.S. officials, brushed aside criticism that he was opposing the sale of the same technology to Iran that the United States wanted to give North Korea.

"The difference is when I became president I found a full-blown nuclear programme in North Korea which I am trying to take down and I don't want to leave some future president... with a programme in Iran that they have to try to take down," he said.

accused of sponsoring "terrorism" worldwide.

Mr. Christopher said the United States would ask its allies in Europe and Japan to help tighten the noose around Iran, stating that the regime there was "in a category all of its own" because of its extremism.

The reactor dispute was expected to be raised again during a three-day visit by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott to Moscow beginning Thursday.

Mr. Christopher was to discuss the matter further with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in New York later this month ahead of the summit meeting between Mr. Clinton and President Yeltsin.

The State Department on Monday raised the possibility that Russia could take part in supplying four light water reactors to North Korea, but denied this suggestion was meant as compensation for Russia losing the Iran deal.

Russia would serve as a sub-contractor under such a scenario, South Korea would supply the reactors, which would be financed mainly by Seoul and Tokyo. The commitment to supply the reactors is a key element of the October 1994 U.S.-North Korea agreement to limit Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

The reactors that Moscow plans to sell Iran are of the same type that Pyongyang would receive. Another solution would be for the plutonium consumed by the Bushehr reactor to be reprocessed outside Iran to prevent it from being used to build a nuclear weapon.

2 Yemeni opposition papers stop publishing

SANAA (Agencies) — Two opposition weeklies have stopped publishing in Yemen because of financial problems and a shortage of paper, their editors said Tuesday.

The editor-in-chief of Al Wehdawi, the mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, told AFP his newspaper stopped printing two weeks ago.

"This step was decided because of our financial difficulties, the disappearance of paper on the local market and increased printing costs," said Ahmad Tarbush.

He denied speculation that political pressure was behind the newspaper's decision to suspend printing.

The weekly Al Tajammu of the Yemeni Unionist Rally Party has not appeared for a week also for financial reasons.

Meanwhile an independent weekly Al Ayyam, which stopped publishing two months ago in the southern city of Aden, was to reappear in the capital Sanaa on Wednesday, the paper said.

Its publisher cited "technical reasons" for its suspension, which came after it published a series of reports on alleged human rights violations in South Yemen after the end of the country's May-July 1994 civil war.

In December the director of the independent weekly Yemen Times said the Information Ministry had imposed prior censorship on newspapers in Yemen.

Yemen now has three government dailies and nine weeklies, as well as 12 opposition weeklies and two independent weeklies.

Before the civil war the country had around 100 newspapers and magazines.

Crackdown reported

Government security forces have mounted a crackdown on opposition parties and currency dealers following an outbreak of anti-government riots, opposition parties said.

A joint statement Monday from the Yemen Socialist Party and several other opposition factions said three of their leaders were among those seized following last week's unrest here and in other cities.

The statement gave no figures for the arrests. But sources who spoke in exchange for anonymity estimated around 30 people were detained mainly in the cities of Aden, Taiz and Dhamar.

The statement called the crackdown "an unconstitutional... repression of freedoms of civilians" and claimed detainees were tortured.

It said police prevented distribution of leaflets by the opposition and detained currency dealers who had them posted outside their shops.

The Yemeni rial has plunged to a black market of 120 to the dollar, 10 times the official rate.

Last week's riots broke out after prices doubled overnight as part of an economic reform programme in one of the most impoverished countries in the Arab World.

The country is saddled with billions of dollars in repair costs from last summer's two-month civil war. Crumbling state industries are also in dire need of renewal.

Balladur says Jerusalem belongs 'bit more' to Jews

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur, in a clear bid for Jewish votes, has been quoted as saying Jerusalem belonged "a bit more" to Jews than it did to other religions.

The status of Jerusalem, a city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians, is bitterly disputed by Israelis and Arabs. Israelis and Palestinians are to negotiate its status at final peace talks to begin no later than May 1996.

"Jerusalem must be open to all religions but my personal feeling is that it does belong to Jews a bit more than it does to others," he told the Jewish weekly Actualite Juive to be published on Thursday.

The weekly sent a copy of the interview to Reuters. "Jerusalem is the soul of Israel and Judaism is the only religion where God has wanted faith in him to be incarnated in a land. Nothing similar exists in any other religion," he said.

Mr. Balladur, in a statement widely at variance with traditional French policy, also said there would be no problem moving France's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem "once the problem (of Jerusalem) was settled between Israelis and Palestinians."

Among France's estimated 700,000 Jews, Actualite Juive is widely read by a religiously orthodox minority who regard the fate of Jerusalem as a burning issue.

"We have a debt to the Jewish people because we allowed them to be martyred (in world war II)," Mr. Balladur said.

"It is normal we should have good relations with the Arabs but for moral and his-



Edouard Balladur

torical reasons, we cannot allow ourselves to practise 'realpolitik' towards Israel.

"The truth is, it was Christian people who were guilty of genocide. Not Muslims or Buddhists but Christians," he said. Mr. Balladur, a practising Catholic, said Christian guilt in the Holocaust was "an extremely serious moral problem, a sort of scandal I cannot accustom myself to."

He pledged, if elected, to press on with European Union aid to Arab-Israeli peace but said "nothing can be done until problems are finally settled between Israelis and Palestinians."

Mr. Balladur denied press reports that he had sought a secret election pact with extreme-rightist candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen who has spared the Premier the violent diatribes he directs against Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac.

Many Jews expressed unease last month after the reports of contacts between aides to Mr. Balladur and to Mr. Le Pen. Mr. Balladur trails both Mr. Chirac and socialist Lionel Jospin in opinion polls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian produce to appear soon in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Palestinian food products are to be sold soon in Saudi Arabia, an official said here Tuesday. "The kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to import Palestinian agricultural products and exports will begin soon via Egypt and Jordan," said Atta Abu Kirsh of the Palestinian Authority's agriculture department. He said he met with Saudi Trade Minister Sulaiman Al Salim who told him Riyadh "would give priority to Palestinian products."

A Palestinian delegation would travel to Riyadh soon to discuss the prospects of cooperation between the autonomous territories and Saudi Arabia, he added.

Libya says sanctions have cost it \$3.6b

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya has lost around \$3.6 billion because of international sanctions imposed in April 1992, according to official figures published Tuesday. Libya's transport sector has lost \$800 million while its industries are running at only 60 per cent of their capacity and have lost \$2.5 billion, according to the figures. Another \$300 million has been lost in the agricultural sector, Tripoli said. The United Nations imposed an air and arms embargo on Tripoli in 1992 after it refused to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyan suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 which left 270 people dead. The sanctions were tightened in 1993 to include a freeze on some of Libya's financial assets abroad and a ban on sales of some oil industry equipment.

Saudi envoy meets Hizbollah chief

BEIRUT (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon has met for the first time with the head of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the fundamentalist group said Tuesday. Diplomat Ahmad Koheymy and Sheikh Nasrallah discussed ways to confront Israeli attacks in South Lebanon at their meeting Monday. Hizbollah said in a statement. It is the first time the group has reported a meeting in Lebanon between a senior Saudi diplomat and the Hizbollah secretary general. The Saudi embassy was ransacked in 1985 by fundamentalists protesting the limited quotas of pilgrims granted by Saudi Arabia to Iran and Lebanon for the annual Hajj to Mecca. The Saudi mission in Beirut reopened two years ago and Mr. Koheymy took up his post 14 months ago.

British envoy to Sudan presents credentials

KHARTOUM (R) — Britain's new ambassador to Sudan handed his credentials to the country's head of state Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir on Tuesday. State radio quoted Gen. Bashir as saying he hoped Ambassador Alan Goutly's appointment would help end Sudan's 12-year-old civil war but that there must be mutual respect between London and Khartoum. Mr. Goutly's predecessor Peter Stearns was expelled in late 1993 in a controversy over the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey. Relations between Sudan and its former colonial ruler have been strained in recent times. Britain has criticised Sudan's human rights record and accused Africa's largest country of not doing enough to end the civil war in the south that has killed, displaced or maimed millions. The government denies the charges.

American convicted for Iraq sales

MIAMI (AFP) — A U.S. salesman was convicted Tuesday of conspiring to export zirconium, a blast-enhancing ingredient, for cluster bombs bound for Iraq during its war with Iran in the 1980s. Edward Johnson, who formerly worked for Teledyne Industries, faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for the plan to sell the bomb ingredient through Chilean arms dealer Carlos Cardoen. A co-defendant, Ronald Griffin, admitted to taking at least \$10,000 in kickbacks from Mr. Cardoen for inside information on Teledyne's zirconium processing and sales. He was acquitted. Teledyne paid a \$4 million fine in January as part of a plea bargain over zirconium shipments, which went into \$150 million worth of cluster bombs Mr. Cardoen sold to Iraq during its war with Iran in the 1980s. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Griffin said they were duped by Teledyne and Mr. Cardoen. Mr. Cardoen and his Miami export company, Swissco, also were indicted. Prosecutors did not seek Mr. Cardoen's extradition but Swissco was convicted of two conspiracy and export charges. The company could be fined \$500,000 at sentencing set for July 10.

Kuwait to boost security along border

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to strengthen its security against incursions on its border with Iraq. Interior Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah was quoted as saying on Tuesday. The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Sheikh Ali was speaking to reporters after a closed meeting of parliament to discuss infiltrations along the border. It quoted him as saying the new measures would include "manpower, equipment and the trench laid along the length of the northern border with Iraq in addition to discussing the possibility of erecting more obstacles to deter infiltrators." Sheikh Ali did not give more details on the measures. Kuwait last month issued a warning to residents to keep away from the Iraq border two Kuwait-based Americans strayed across the border on March 13 and were later jailed to eight years each by a court in Baghdad. Diplomats had said the incident might prompt Kuwait to speed up plans to install mines and electronic sensing devices on fortifications erected last year to prevent infiltrations.

Islamic fervor rises as Iraqis suffer

By Eileen Alt Powell

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The thousands of Muslims who gathered under the golden dome of the Al Kathem Mosque in central Baghdad one recent Friday heard what has become a familiar appeal.

"We pray to God to lift the sanctions and to keep Saddam Hussein safe and to give us victory over those who would oppress us," the prayer leader intoned.

Such messages delivered in mosques across the country are reaching a widening audience.

"More and more people are coming to pray," said Amal Zamil, a 19-year-old woman draped to toe in black scarf and gown. "People are turning to God for help."

Amid deepening economic privation because of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, many Iraqis are turning to Islam for support — often with encouragement from the government.

But the regime, ostensibly secular since the Arab Baath Socialist Party seized power in 1968, could be playing with

fire. Secular Iraq may be planting the seeds now for Islamic extremism later.

"Saddam realises that Islam is not only an asset in Iraq but a potential force," said Laith Kubba, an Iraq opposition leader living in exile in London. "He wants to use that force rather than leave it open for others to use against him."

But he added: "This could bring on complicated problems in the future."

So far there are no signs of an Islamic movement with enough muscle. And Iraq has taken steps to try to prevent any from forming.

After crushing most of opponents from the Shiite Muslim majority in the 1980s, the regime has turned in the past two years toward purging clergymen of the minority Sunni sect who became too powerful.

One knowledgeable Iraqi, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said those in charge of the mosques these days are completely in line with the government.

President Saddam himself has taken the lead in fostering religious fervor. He made a public appeal to

the Islamic World last year for donations of Korans to step up religious education in public schools.

State-run television now carries many religious programmes, and President Saddam is frequently shown in prayer.

The government also has announced plans for construction of what has been billed as "the world's largest mosque" at an abandoned airfield in the capital.

The trend most worrisome to secularists here is the government's decision to impose Islamic-style punishments for a wide range of offenses.

The regime last summer decreed that people convicted of theft would have their right hands cut off. A second conviction would result in the amputation of the left foot.

In September, state-run television broadcast footage of a convicted criminal shown writhing in a hospital bed, the stumps of his right arm swathed in bloody bandages and his severed hand on a blue surgical sheet nearby.

Army deserters have an ear cut off and are branded with an "X" on the forehead.

The government also has banned the public consumption of alcohol, a move long demanded by conservative Muslims.

One government official, who insisted on anonymity, said the action was not for religious reasons, but because the state believes money should be spent on food and necessities, not alcohol.

The regime remains wary of the more conservative Shiites, who make up about 60 per cent of Iraq's 18 million population.

Iraqi security forces put down a Shiite rebellion in the south right after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war. Many Shiites remain bitter at the brutality that killed as many as 10,000 people.

In recent years, the government has spent lavishly to try to pacify the Shiite population, reconstructing public buildings that were wrecked in the fighting and repairing shrines.

But the regime also maintains large numbers of troops in the south, and it guards road intersections to check the identity papers of all travellers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

773111-14

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Denise the Menace
14:30 Mr. Secret Identity
15:00 NBA
16:00 Blue Holes
17:00 Les Raisons Latentes
17:30 Des Heros Ordinaires
18:00 News in French
19:30 The Album Show
19:45 Planete En Equilibre
20:30 The Blue Revolution
21:10 E. N. G.
22:00 News in English
22:30 Futuro film
23:50 Burning Shores

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:14 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:58 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:02 Maghrib
20:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifflish, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624581
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 638851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624728
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641095
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 634932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising further. Winds will be variable occasionally becoming north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and calm.

Min./Max. Temp. 3/19
Amman 11/25
Agaba 11/25
Djess 11/20
Jordan Valley 9/24

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayez Ouhbas 799155
Dr. Jamil Tani 797710
Dr. Alhassan Al-Hakim 885486
Dr. Ramzi Mazari 894788
Firas pharmacy 861912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637065
Narvukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimessani pharmacy 637661
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 876752

IRABID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy 1-41

ZARQA:

Dr. Tariq Hijawi 985445
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Racine 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634302
Traffic Police 896791
Public Security Department 630721
Hotel Complaints 661581
Pass Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 767111
Telephone Information 121
Director's assistance 810231
Overseas Calls 810231
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Arabic Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 18-53204
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 18-53201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalid Maternity J. Amn. 644281/6
Akil Maternity J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mileva J. Amman 636141
Palestine Shmashan 66171/4
Shmashan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 648455
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdull. 66617/37
Al-Ahli, Abdull. 661161
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511/26
Army/Marsha 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 66240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865194
ZARQA:
Zarqa General Hospital 18993323
Zarqa National Hospital 18999041
IRABID:
Ibn Sina Hospital 189996732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 18999041
PRINCE BASSA Hospital 18127555
Greek Catholic Hospital 18127275
Ibn Al Nafaa Hospital 18127101

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 18953201, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:00 Aden (RJ)
07:30 Samarra (RJ)
07:30 Amman (RJ)
09:15 Amman (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)
09:55 Beirut (RJ)
21:45 Amman (RJ)
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 Amman (RJ)
18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
20:00 Rome (RJ)
20:10 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
20:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Doha (Q7)
12:40 Sharjah (AH)
12:40 Abu Dhabi, Ouh (GF)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Rome (AZ)
16:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
22:20 Istanbul (TK)
00:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 Amman (RJ)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
10:40 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:40 Amman (RJ)
11:40 Rome (RJ)
11:40 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:45 Larissa, Athens (RJ)
11:55 Samarra (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 Amman (RJ)
18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
20:00 Rome (RJ)
20:10 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
20:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma guides at an afforestation ceremony in Wednesday addresses boy scouts and girl Balqa Governorate (Petra photo)

Princess Basma congratulates youth for helping in greening of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma a ceremony was held in celebration of completing the afforestation stage of the Eira area in Balqa Governorate by boy scouts and girl guides.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Princess Basma stressed on youth's role in the development of the society. She expressed pleasure and satisfaction at the scouts and guides efforts to afforest "this very dear land."

Princess Basma also referred to Jordan's urbanisation project which is carried out by the scouts and guides movement in many parts of the Kingdom.

The project got the support of the different governmental and public authorities, parents as well as the voluntary and charity society.

Princess Basma also hailed the scouts' and guides' role in the charity campaign for helping the needy which, she said, is aimed at achieving social solidarity among the different social layers.

The campaign is launched during the holy month of Ramadan every year.

Zeid Dabbas, technical director of the Balqa Educational Department, pointed to the strategic and beautiful site of Eira area that looks upon Jerusalem's minarets and Nabulus mountains. He reminisced about the presence of the Jordanian Arab Army in this land and its achievements in Al Karameh Battle.

Mr. Dabbas said that after Jordan regained its rights in land and water, Jordanians should carry flowers and trees in our hands and make Jordan as His Majesty King Hussein wanted it, a forest of love and peace.

Scouts and guides have planted more than 20 forests, of 15,000 dunums with trees.

During the ceremony, the scouts and guides sang national songs and expressed thanks to King Hussein and Princess Basma for their support.

The ceremony was attended by Balqa Governor El Oataneh and several officials from the Ministry of Education.

Jordan to mark World Health Day today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is celebrating World Health Day, organised by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Education, under the theme "Polio eradication... goal 2000."

The celebration will take place at the Teachers' Club in Amman, a UNICEF statement said.

The opening programme includes speeches by Minister of Health Aref Batayneh, Acting Executive Director of UNICEF Richard Jolly, and Omer Suleiman, WHO representative in Jordan.

In addition, prizes will be awarded to student winners of the drawing competition organised by the ministries of health and education, under the theme: "Towards a polio-free Jordan... goal 2000."

Following the prize giving, an exhibition of all drawings submitted to the competition will be officially opened for the public, the statement said.

Immediately after the opening ceremony, Dr. Jolly will hold a press conference.

In 1988, the World Health Assembly targeted global polio eradication for the year 2000, a fitting gift from health workers in this century to the children of the next.

Dr. Jolly, who holds a Ph.D. in economics, is currently visiting Jordan to enhance partnerships between UNICEF and Jordanian establishments concerned with children's issues.

Dr. Jolly was appointed acting executive director of UNICEF, following 15 years as UNICEF deputy executive director for programmes.

He also led UNICEF programming missions to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in 1989 and in 1991, the joint UNICEF/WHO collaborative missions on health and urgent human needs.

Since joining UNICEF, his personal writings included publications in social and health development, environmental degradation, and the impact of economic adjustments on humanity.

Housing officials study legislation to help cope with population needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat Wednesday said the government has carried out scores of housing projects in various parts of the Kingdom to be able to meet the rise in population.

Delivering an address at a seminar entitled "the role of legislation in providing suitable housing," the minister said the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) has provided lands suitable for building houses and other infrastructure to enable people with low income to obtain housing.

The government, Mr. Thuheirat said, has prepared a national housing strategy and is preparing to participate in preliminary meetings of the Arab Housing Committee.

Attending the meeting on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Mr. Thuheirat said Jordan's winning of the Agha Khan Architecture Award was a recognition of the Kingdom's efforts in this field.

He said the housing sector in Jordan was facing grave responsibilities as a result of the growth in population.

He said Jordan witnessed a population growth rate of 4.35 annually between the 1950s and 1970s as the general censuses of 1952 and 1979 have shown, noting that the Kingdom had to absorb three sudden waves of migrations.

Mr. Thuheirat said figures also reveal that Jordan's population has doubled six-



Nader Thuheirat

fold between 1952 and 1991, explaining that in 1952 the population was 0.6 million, while this year's census showed that the Kingdom's population currently stands at 4.1 million.

The minister said the construction sector in Jordan witnesses periodic booms and added that in 1992 alone, the concerned government departments granted permits to build around 4,000,000 square metres to the construction sector.

Mr. Thuheirat stressed the need to upgrade coordination and arrangements between the various concerned institutions and to evaluate environmental and traffic problems.

He also underscored the importance of tackling the needs of the poor in better way, especially at the seminar, which, he said is designed to discuss legislative fields.

He said participants in the seminar, organised by HUDD in cooperation with the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society and the Jordanian Investment Society, should find ways to create in a reverse migration movement from cities to the countryside to be able to find a balanced population formula and to curb the haphazard building process which in turn will cut costs of providing the needed infrastructure.

HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat also addressed participants in the two-day seminar emphasising the importance of the housing sector and legislation governing it and organising its work.

Noting that legislation stipulates construction standards and specifications, he said the housing sector needs a comprehensive study to be restructured and enable it to meet the increasing need for housing units, especially for people with limited incomes.

He said HUDD plays a pioneering role in serving this segment of the society since it has thus far carried out 150 housing projects in various parts of Jordan.

He urged the participants in the seminar to focus on the Kingdom's future needs of housing units and underscored the importance of having means to grant loans to build houses for people with limited income.

He also highlighted the importance of coordinating the efforts of the private and public sectors in resolving problems facing citizens, particularly in housing.

World Bank extends \$80m to Jordan in phase two of education programme

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank is lending \$80 million to develop Jordan's education sector in the second phase of a programme implemented in 1990.

World Bank officials and the Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. Faysal Tarawneh, signed the loan agreement in Washington on March 30.

It was the second World Bank loan to Jordan this year. The first was for \$80 million to the Kingdom's agricultural sector. The German government co-financed the project with another 30 million marks (about JD 14 million).

The latest World Bank loan is for the second "human resources development" project estimated to cost \$186.5 million. The \$60 million World Bank loan will be coupled with

co-financing for another \$60 million from several governments. The rest of the project cost will come from the Jordanian treasury.

The precise components of the co-financing part of the loan were not immediately known. But European countries are expected to come up with nearly 50 per cent of the \$60 million.

Japanese sources said Amman had sought Japanese aid for the project, but that Tokyo had not taken a final decision on the request.

"We have several requests from the Jordanian government for different projects, and we are now looking at the priorities," said a Japanese source who declined to be identified.

The source noted that Tokyo lent Jordan \$80 million in a co-financing arrangement with the

World Bank, which provided an equal amount, to fund the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. In addition to the co-financing, Tokyo is also extending a bilateral loan, raising the Japanese involvement in the project to \$131 million.

The human resources development programme involves upgrading schools and curricula, training for teachers, vocational training and reforms in the overall educational structure in the country.

The first project in the human resources development programme was launched in 1990 at a cost of \$244.9 million financed by the World Bank (\$73 million), the Japanese government (\$73 million), Britain's Overseas Development Agency (\$1.4 million) and the Jordanian government (\$97.5 million).

Meanwhile, two World

Bank delegations are in Jordan reviewing the civil service sector and the Kingdom's external trade.

According to sources, one delegation is closely studying a recent report on the Jordanian civil service "with a view to ascertaining whether the World Bank can formulate a reform programme in the sector."

The report itself is part of Jordan's overall efforts for administrative reform, a key theme of the government's policy as Jordan seeks to reduce bureaucracy and raise efficiency.

The second World Bank delegation is scrutinising the Kingdom's external trade in order to assess how much the government needs to address the deficit in the balance of payments.

According to the sources, World Bank credit to help Jordan plug the deficit could be between

\$70 million and \$80 million.

Ministry of Finance figures show that the Kingdom owed the World Bank and its financing agencies — the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Agency — JD 538 million (about \$765 million) as of Dec. 31, 1994.

With the signing of the loans to the agriculture and education sectors, this rose to about \$900 million.

Terms for the new loans were not immediately available, but the sources noted that World Bank loans carry interest rates of "cost-plus" — meaning the rates the bank will pay while rising the finance from market sources plus a small margin to pay for the bank's costs.

This would indicate an annual rate of between seven and 7.5 per cent.

Jordanian-French Businessmen's Council meets for first time to boost cooperation

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian-French Businessmen's Council has held its first meeting, paving the way for what both sides expect to be a boost in trade and industrial cooperation between Jordan and France and a high profile French private sector involvement in regional development projects.

The meeting of the council, which was set up in June 1994 in Amman, was held in Paris on Monday. Jordan was represented in the meeting by a delegation from the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) headed by Hamdi Tabbara.

According to a press release issued by the JBA, the meeting reviewed all aspects of cooperation between Jordanian and French private sectors and reached agreement on several key areas.

Michael Dugar, head of the commercial section of the French embassy, said he expected the meeting to have produced "very good results" for both sides.

"The JBA delegation is a very well selected team," Mr. Dugar told the Jordan Times.

He said members of the delegation represented a wide cross-section of Jordanian trade and industry, including contractors, manufacturers and importers of foodstuffs, chemicals, containers, and cosmetics as well as dealers and importers of cars and automobile spare parts.

French exports to Jordan amounted to \$240 million in 1994, about 50 per cent over 1993. Jordan's exports to France during the year were worth about \$10 million, a 25 per cent increase over the previous year.

The JBA press release said the delegation visited the French ministries of economics, financial, foreign affairs and industry and discussed means to boost economic cooperation and increased investments in Jordan, the release said.

They also discussed topics related to the Amman economic summit to be held in

October and the French private sector's role in the conference, it said.

The delegation also visited different companies and technical organisation and held one-to-one meetings with French businessmen. They also attended a meeting over a lunch organised by the French National Committee of Employers.

Senior executives of French companies attended the lunch.

The Jordanian ambassador, Mutaseem Bilbeli, and Samir Mubarak, director of the Arab Bank in Paris, hosted separate receptions for the delegation, the release said.

On Monday the delegation attended the meeting of the Jordanian-French Businessmen's Council, which was held at the French embassy in Amman.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said that the two sides discussed cooperation through implementing an agreement that was signed between the JBA and the French Organisation of Employers and means to enhance relations.

The two sides discussed the importance of exchange of visits between trade delegations and encouraging projects in various sectors. They also exchanged views on means to increase cooperation.

The statement said that the two sides stressed the need to establish a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and called "moving from the stage of making peace to the stage of building peace through progress for the people of the region."

"The two sides discussed the economic and trade situation in the region and emphasised their desire to develop Jordan and to cooperate with third parties in the area of trade, industry, infrastructure, service and training, taking into account the circumstances of some of the countries."

They agreed to work towards opening the Palestinian market to Jordanian products and encouraging Jordanian-Palestinian pro-

jects.

The Jordanian side also emphasised its support for the government's efforts to secure debt relief so that Jordan could overcome economic problems, particularly in view of the high rate of unemployment and poverty.

The French side expressed keen interest to cooperate in the economic development of all countries of the Middle East. The two sides also studied the activities and preparations ahead of the Amman summit and agreed to coordinate their efforts to ensure participation of the French sector in the conference.

The two sides also expressed confidence in the political relations built on mutual respect between the leaders of the two countries and said they offered the right atmosphere for cooperation.

The second meeting of the council will be held in Amman at a date to be fixed later.

The Jordan Businessmen's Association delegation ends its visit on today.

Jordan to switch to daylight savings time

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to daylight savings time as of Friday April 7. On Thursday at midnight, clocks should be set one hour ahead, making the difference between Jordan local time and Greenwich Mean Time three hours.

The country will return to winter time as of Sept. 15.

Joint panel to meet in Manama

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Bahraini joint committee will meet in Manama in mid-April under the co-chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheh and the Bahraini Minister of Finance and Economy.

Preliminary meeting will be held earlier at the experts level to discuss bilateral cooperation issues, particularly those pertaining to trade exchange and activating the role of the private sector in the two countries in launching joint ventures and investment.

Arafat slams Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

tonate the vehicle in the southern Israeli town of Beer Sheva.

"It could be that the explosion... was a planned trap for the activists of Izzedine Al Qassam," wrote Dava's military correspondent.

"This emerges from analysing findings by journalists in Gaza."

The newspapers Yedioth Arnonoth and Maariv carried similar reports, but quoted Hamas activists.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres earlier this week dismissed questions about Israel's possible involvement as "absolute nonsense."

A check by the Associated Press, meanwhile, showed that only three bodies have been identified so far and that the death toll may be lower than the six dead reported by Palestinian police.

Jordan, Malaysia sign educational accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Malaysia signed an agreement this week in Kuala Lumpur to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of education.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud, who came back Tuesday after a week-long visit to Malaysia, and Suleiman Haj Daoud, Malaysian Minister of Education, calls for increasing cooperation in the educational field between the



Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud signs his Malaysian counterpart, Suleiman Haj Daoud addresses a ceremony at which the two ministers last week signed an educational cooperation agreement

Jordan, Malaysia sign educational accord

two countries in an effort to develop education and encourage cultural exchange.

The agreement calls for increasing the exchange of university professors and school teachers between the two countries.

It also calls for exchanging experts and lecturers in the fields of Islamic sharia (Islamic law) and Arabic language.

Both parties also stressed the need for enhancing cooperation and coordination in the professional and technical fields.

In one of the agreement's articles, both countries pledge to further the exchange of educational materials.

During his stay, Mr. Saoud visited the National Malaysian University, and the Malaysian International Islamic University.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>CONCERT</p> <p>★ Pop festival (participating bands: Dead Sea Fishing Club, Faculty X, Los Morenos, Black Iris, Vinyl, Haunted Cottage and Floyd) at Al Hussein Sports City, Palace of Culture on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>SECOND ARAB DRAMA FESTIVAL</p> <p>★ Two plays entitled "Every Day" and "Ansar" respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.</p> <p>★ Two plays entitled "The Island of Goats" and "Ansar" respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre.</p> <p>FILMS</p> <p>★ Film entitled "Tobor The Great" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.</p> | <p>★ Film entitled "Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael And Titian" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis at Darat Al Funn on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>★ Film entitled "Cris Cuervos" at Instituto Cervantes" (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>IRAQI SONG NIGHT</p> <p>★ Night on Iraqi songs with Iraqi composer Ja'far Al Khafaji and Iraqi poet Karim Al Iraqi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>EXHIBITIONS</p> <p>★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Samer Al Khafaji at Umm Uthaina Gallery.</p> <p>★ Exhibition of art by William Golding at the British Council.</p> | <p>★ Exhibition of Egyptian products at Amman International Exhibition, Marj Al Hamam (Tel. 688141).</p> <p>★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.</p> <p>★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funn. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.</p> <p>★ Exhibition of art by Leo Rialp at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).</p> <p>★ Exhibition of prize-winning paintings by Czech students at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Dialogue Between the Nature and the Artist" by landscape painter Ahmad Mounib.</p> <p>★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamoud Chantant at the Balqa Art Gallery, Fuhais.</p> |
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Balladur targets Chirac in final presidency offensive

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur mobilised his forces for a last offensive against front-runner Jacques Chirac Wednesday as surveys showed the conservative duo heading for a run-off for the presidency.

The urbane premier, whose new-found aggressive style is paying off in opinion polls despite a ferocious counter-attack from Mr. Chirac's camp, rallied his campaigners for a final push before the first round of the election on April 23.

Flanked by Gaullist members of his centre-right cabinet, including hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Mr. Balladur gathered his supporters at two successive meetings in Paris luxury hotels.

With the field of candidates pruned of outsiders after a Tuesday midnight deadline for candidates to gather the required 500 endorsements from locally elected officials, latest opinion polls showed Mr. Chirac's lead was slowly melting away.

Surveys by the IFOP and BVA institutes gave Mr. Chirac 26 and 25.5 per cent respectively in the first round, a slight fall.

The IFOP poll showed Mr. Balladur with an increasing chance of facing Mr. Chirac in the second-round runoff between the two top candi-

dates on May 7. It said he had overtaken Socialist Lionel Jospin for second place, with 20 per cent against Mr. Jospin's 16.5.

The BVA survey gave Mr. Balladur 19.5 and Mr. Jospin 21.

Mr. Jospin is fretting that Mr. Balladur could well leapfrog him into the run-off contest on May 7.

"Most polls now put me in second place but there is no guarantee yet I will be in the run-off," Mr. Jospin told French radio. He dismissed the Chirac-Balladur clash as "a private conversation between two people separated only by ambition."

But a poll for various French media including the daily information showed Mr. Balladur still had an uphill task.

Listing his perceived qualities and faults, the survey showed more people found him distant, soft and lacking new ideas than honest, experienced or trustworthy.

With the midnight deadline, Ecologist leader Antoine Waechter followed colourful no-hopers — like a woman with royal pretensions and a tent-dweller claiming to be an American Indian — out of the race.

Greens leader Dominique Voynet was left as the sole environmentalist.

Outsider Jacques Chemi-

nade, former head of the defunct European Workers' Party, surprised many by declaring he had managed to qualify. The list of candidates is due Friday.

The cut-off date clears the decks for an increasingly bitter duel between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, a former "friend of 30 years' standing."

In a campaign dominated by personal clashes rather than debate over issues, Mr. Balladur has this week repeatedly dubbed Mr. Chirac inflexible, intolerant and irresponsible.

In the latest bout, National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin, a Chirac supporter, unleashed a new salvo at Mr. Balladur, without naming the premier. Mr. Seguin said that he did not want "a closed-door, arrogant, and grab-all ruling class."

In a pitch for the left-wing vote, Mr. Seguin told the weekly VED in an interview to be published Thursday that if Mr. Chirac was elected he might make overtures to leftist figures in a "republican pact."

Earlier, pro-Chirac deputy Eric Raoult had branded the Balladur-led government "a pack of pit-bulls" and the premier himself "a kamikaze without a headband."

Amid the fracas, one statistic will be looming large in

their calculations: the number of undecided voters is among the largest ever at this stage in a French presidential race, with 44 per cent said by a recent poll to have yet to make their choice.

The programme for the next five weeks is straightforward:

— Friday April 7: The opening of the official campaign after publication of the list of candidates approved by the Constitutional Council.

— Saturday April 15 at midnight: Opinion polls are banned until after the first round. Polls are also banned for the week preceding the second round.

— Sunday April 23: First round of voting. If no candidate wins 50 per cent of the vote, the top two candidates go through to the second round.

— Sunday May 7: At the close of the second round run-off, computer estimates will provide the name of the likely victor at 1800 GMT. Wednesday May 17 is the deadline for proclamation of the official results by the Constitutional Council.

Balladur will head a caretaker government until Saturday May 20 at midnight, when Mr. Mitterrand's mandate expires. The new president will then take over and appoint a new prime minister.



U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry sits in the cockpit of a Russian TU 160 "Blackjack" strategic bomber force under the Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty, which took effect last December (AFP photo)

Kazakh leader sticks to referendum plan

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said Wednesday that despite United States criticism he still planned to hold a referendum this month on extending his presidency to the end of the century.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, on a four-day tour of former Soviet republics, raised Washington's concern about the planned referendum during talks with Mr. Nazarbayev in the Kazakh capital, Alma-Ata.

But, asked if he would still hold the referendum on April 29, the Kazakh leader later told reporters: "Yes, of course. I will use my constitutional authority."

"Why should people dictate to us how we behave if we are behaving exactly the way our constitution is written?"

Mr. Nazarbayev, a former Communist Party chief who had been due to face the voters in December 1996, says he called the referendum to extend his term until December 2000 to guarantee order in the oil-rich state that borders both Russia and China.

Parliament was dissolved last month after the constitutional court declared a gener-

al election in March 1994 illegal. Mr. Nazarbayev has said he will rule by decree pending a new poll.

He said Wednesday he was committed to democracy and economic and constitutional reforms. Mr. Perry, standing beside him, said he was pleased with the talks on issues ranging from the referendum to defence cooperation.

"The president reaffirmed to me, just as he reaffirmed to you, that he is committed to moving Kazakhstan towards democracy," Mr. Perry said.

Washington has seen Mr. Nazarbayev as one of the more progressive of the leaders of the former Soviet republics, mainly because of his cooperation in ridding Kazakhstan of nuclear weapons left after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials have said a referendum on extending Mr. Nazarbayev's tenure falls far short of a democratic presidential election.

Opposition leaders say the referendum is a threat to democracy and they have appealed for a massive "no" vote.

"If we see in Kazakhstan a narrowing and constricting of the political process rather than the opposite, it will over time cause a reduction in confidence," one senior official travelling with Mr. Perry said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, noted that Mr. Nazarbayev had visited Washington in 1992 and 1994, when he promised to move ahead with democratic reforms.

Since Mr. Perry paid a similar visit to Alma-Ata in March 1994, Kazakhstan has deactivated all of its long-range 10-warhead SS-18 missiles and shipped other nuclear arms back to Russia.

The United States is providing Alma-Ata with more than \$170 million in aid to help dismantle the nuclear weapons and to convert large defence plants to production of consumer products.

Mr. Perry announced new U.S. investments worth \$37 million to help convert defence industries to producing materials such as vitamins, pharmaceuticals and electronic printed circuit boards.

Mr. Perry earlier visited Ukraine and Russia and will wind up his four-nation tour in Uzbekistan Thursday.

Schwarzenegger attacks EU film quotas

NEW YORK (AFP) — Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger launched a stinging verbal attack against European film quotas, which he said were designed to protect a mediocre industry from stiff U.S. competition. "There is no demand for French films, it's that simple," the Austrian-born actor told an industry convention in New York. To the extent that any demand exists, he said, "We buy them... and we remake them."

One such production was Schwarzenegger's own film True Lies, a 1994 Hollywood remake of the French film "La Totale." Showbusiness figures who took part in a day of round-table discussions and debates were equally outspoken against the quotas — with the exception of Harvey Weinstein, who with his brother heads the Miramax Production and distribution company. Miramax is owned by Disney. "Protectionism is very popular in Europe," said Schwarzenegger, the former bodybuilder who became a naturalised U.S. citizen in 1983.

"They make the people believe that it protects their culture (but) the reality is that people have a great demand for U.S. films."

"This attempt to exclude us from the market," said Viacom President Jonathan Dolgen, "is a very sad thing from an economic point of view. We were hoping we would get more help from Washington."

MCA Studio President Thomas Pollock criticised the import quotas as "a political reason to protect certain countries, namely France... (it has) nothing to do with what the French want to see."

Weinstein alone stressed that "you never see a European movie on cable or the networks," although Europe produces "great films."

Movie wars on Indian TV

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's state television network will launch a Hindi movie channel ahead of schedule this week in a bid to get the jump on the Hong Kong-based STAR network, officials said Wednesday. Doordarshan, which reaches hundreds of millions of viewers in India, said it would begin broadcasts Friday, two days ahead of a planned splash by STAR's Zee Cinema Hindi-language station. "Everything is ready," a Doordarshan official said of the planned launch of the Movieclub channel. A box office smash, Shaan, featuring India's top star, Amitabh Bachchan, has been chosen to kick off the new channel. Doordarshan, which went on air in 1982, expanded its number of channels from two to 13 in August in a bid to counter STAR, which broke the state monopoly two years ago with five channels of entertainment, sports and news.

Close stirs up more backstage controversy

NEW YORK (AP) — A "furious and insulted" Glenn Close says she is ready for her last curtain call in the Broadway musical Sunset Boulevard. Close sent a scathing letter to composer Andrew Lloyd Webber upon learning that ticket sales were inflated by \$150,000 a week to make underdog Karen Mason look good, daily Variety reported Monday. "It sickens me to be treated with such disregard," Close wrote in a letter quoted in the entertainment industry newspaper. "I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that my performance turned Sunset Boulevard around. I made it a hit."

Lloyd Webber was said to be "distracted and shellshocked by this," according to a statement from Patrick McKenna, managing director of the British impresario's producing organisation, the Really Useful Co. "All he did was to praise the understudy who did a superb job when Glenn was on holiday, whilst not condoning the actions of the New York office in misrepresenting the holiday figures," said the statement, quoted in the New York Daily News. In a joint statement issued late Monday, Close and Lloyd Webber expressed "mutual dismay that a very private communication... found its way into public hands."

They "remain the best of friends," the joint statement said. Mason portrayed the demanding and vain diva Norma Desmond on Broadway last month while Close took a two-week vacation.

Malaysia premier calls snap election

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced a snap general election Wednesday and said he expected to keep his two-thirds majority in parliament.

"The king has consented to sign a declaration to dissolve the eighth parliament (on Wednesday)," Mr. Mahathir

told a news conference at his office in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur.

King Ja'afar Tnanku Abdul Rahman, who was mostly ceremonial powers under the constitution, was scheduled to open a meeting of the country's parliament Monday.

Polls were not due until

October. Politicians and analysts have been incorrectly forecasting an imminent election for more than a year.

Mr. Mahathir announced he has advised the chief ministers of all Malaysian states, except the Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak, to dissolve their local assemblies Thursday to clear the way for polls.

4 suspects quizzed by Irish police over arms

DUBLIN (R) — Four guerrilla suspects were being questioned by Irish police Wednesday after security forces foiled a gun-running operation they fear was aimed at wrecking Northern Ireland's fragile peace process.

The suspects, who police believe belong to the left-wing Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), were held under counter-insurgency laws when armed police swooped on a car and a truck north of Dublin Tuesday.

Police sources said the discovery of 20 pistols, six rifles and more than 2,000 bullets in the truck destined for Northern Ireland was a "worrying" development and a threat to the seven-month peace process in the province.

"All four are believed to be members of the INLA," a police spokesman said.

The chief Republican guerrilla force, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), laid aside its weapons last September ending a 25-year campaign against British rule, but the INLA refused to join the ceasefire.

Since then it has remained inactive but security analysts said there had been speculation the INLA had been trying to rearm. It was not known whether the weapons were from hidden stockpiles or had been newly imported.

Police said they would put the cache on display later Wednesday.

Japanese police guard against another public nerve gas attack

TOKYO (AFP) — Police are gearing up against any possible repetition of the still unresolved sarin nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway last April, but are seen necessary after many holders of advance tickets inquired about security precautions, the newspaper said.

Police have also been alerted by tips concerning "suspicious large lot buying of tickets," the newspaper said.

A Metropolitan Police Department press officer refused to comment on the reported reinforcement. "Such information is a matter which could affect security itself and enhance anxieties among the general public," he said.

Some two weeks after sarin nerve gas was set off on five

subway trains on March 20, leaving 11 dead and 5,500 injured, no arrests have been made despite extensive police raids on Aum, primarily on suspicions of kidnappings.

Police are also struggling to find clues to a sniper's attack last Thursday on National Police Chief Tajaki Kunimatsu, who was heading the investigation into the gassing.

On Monday, a woman carrying a list of Aum members and two passports was arrested at Naha Airport on the southern Japan island of Okinawa, a police spokesman confirmed Wednesday.

"The woman was acting strange and refused to cooperate with police," the spokesman said, adding she was remained silent since her arrest.

ported.

The deployment will be three times the normal level at the covered stadium in central Tokyo, but is seen necessary after many holders of advance tickets inquired about security precautions, the newspaper said.

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U.S. letter reveals details of Haiti assassination

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — A letter from a U.S. general to Haiti's justice minister details how U.S. officials came to learn of a plot to murder a prominent opposition leader.

The letter, made available to the Associated Press Tuesday, shed light on the assassination which some observers think was an effort to discredit President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and embarrass the United States.

President Bill Clinton Friday declared the American intervention in Haiti a success when he handed over command of the multinational force to the United Nations.

Maj. Gen. George Fischer, who commanded the U.S.-led force, wrote in his Mar. 22 letter that Interior Secretary Aristide Beaubrun was believed to be involved in a conspiracy to kill Mireille Durocher Bertin.

Mr. Beaubrun this week denied having anything to do with the killing.

Ms. Bertin, a right-wing lawyer and top official of the former army-installed regime, was shot to death six days after forming a political party.

"We do not know whether or not these allegations are true," Gen. Fischer wrote in the letter to Justice Minister Jean Joseph Exume.

"However, the fact that a minister has been implicated is especially serious."

According to Gen. Fischer, a Haitian interpreter for the multinational force, Claude Douge, told authorities he had been given an Uzi sub-machine gun by a man, Patric Moise, who said Mr. Beaubrun had hired him to assassinate Ms. Bertin. Mr. Douge then surrendered the weapon to the U.S.-led troops.

State TV broadcast a government statement Tuesday evening accusing Douge of framing the interior minister. The statement, which state TV said was released by an official whom it didn't name, also accused the Moise brothers of being agents of the former military-installed regime.

"The result of the FBI and Haitian investigation denounces it (Douce's story) as a frame-up," said the statement read during the evening newscast.

Haitian officials weren't immediately available for comment.

The statement said Mr. Beaubrun couldn't have gotten an Uzi because the multinational force confiscated all private weapons in Haiti. However, most military officials acknowledge there still are thousands of firearms in circulation.

Multinational forces arrested Moise, his brother Eddi and several others on March 19 after they came to Douge's home in a gray Isuzu Trooper registered to the Interior Ministry, Gen. Fischer's letter said.

The men were also carrying papers containing Mr. Beaubrun's phone number and a list of lawyers, including Ms. Bertin, who may have participated in the September 1991 coup that overthrew Mr. Aristide.

A source close to Mr. Douge told the AP that the Moise brothers came to Mr. Douge asking for help, because they had cold feet about taking part in the assassination.

Mr. Douge promised to contact American officials and explain the Moises' situation, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The FBI is investigating the slaying of Ms. Bertin, and five specialists from the U.S. Army Institute of Pathology came to conduct a post-mortem on the body.

Meanwhile, Haiti's opposition socialist parties have charged the ruling Lavalas Political Organisation of tampering with the process leading to June's legislative, municipal and local elections.

Serge Gilles, of the Haitian National Progressive Revolutionary Party, threatened to

El Salvador denies plot to kill Ghali

SAN SALVADOR (AFP) — The Salvadoran government has denied there had been a plot to kill U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali during his weekend visit here.

"The government of the republic denies that there was a plot to kill the U.N. secretary general, following reports by international news agencies quoting U.N. spokesman Juan Carlos Brandt as a source," an official statement said late Tuesday.

"The government denies that Salvadoran authorities had informed the U.N. spokesman of the possibility of an attempt on the life of Dr. Ghali, and regrets that Mr. Brandt has been surprised with rumours of this sort," the president's office said.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Brandt said a plot to assassinate Dr. Ghali during his weekend visit to El Salvador had been foiled by Salvadoran authorities.

The U.N. spokesman cited government authorities as saying the assassins planned to plant explosives in vehicles parked along the route connecting the Ilopango military base, where the U.N. chief's plane landed Saturday, to the area of his hotel in San Salvador.

Mr. Brandt said Dr. Ghali had been informed of the plot during his stay in El Salvador, which ended Saturday, adding that his delegation did not take the main road from Ilopango to downtown San Salvador, but was ferried instead in two military helicopters to the president's residence, near his hotel.

The U.N. chief's delegation was informed of the transportation change at least one day before Dr. Ghali began a regional trip last Thursday that took him to Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The government statement said the helicopter trip had been arranged for his convenience of the U.N. chief "given his brief stay in El Salvador and his crowded agenda."

Dr. Ghali's visit to El Salvador took place in what appeared to be normal security conditions, according to members of his delegation and reporters travelling with him.

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U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton (left) shares a Kumarakatunga during their meeting at the Sri Lanka President's official residence (AFP photo)

Mrs. Clinton ends South Asia tour

COLOMBO (R) — U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton met Sri Lankan slum dwellers and paid homage to the country's Buddhist tradition Wednesday before heading home from an extensive goodwill tour of South Asia.

Accompanied by daughter Chelsea, 15, the wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton started the last day of her 20,000-mile (32,000-kilometre) trip by visiting the Kelaniya Temple, one of Sri Lanka's most sacred shrines.

There, shaded by an umbrella from a broiling tropical sun, she and Chelsea walked in a procession led by two gaudily-decorated elephants to place flowers at a statue of Buddha.

As they walked slowly in stocking feet toward the 19th century shrine, temple dancers in colourful costumes whirled around them while horn-playing musicians created a clamorous din.

Afterwards, Mrs. Clinton, continuing her emphasis on U.S. concern for the poor in this region, went to a sprawling complex in Colombo's slum district to meet women helped by a programme partially financed by the United States.

Emblazoned over the entrance to one of the buildings was the legend: "All of us long to see God someday, but meanwhile we are blind to his presence in our daily midst."

The organisation that runs the complex is headed by Sister Bernice De Silva, a Roman Catholic nun.

She took Mrs. Clinton on a tour of the cafeteria, classrooms and clinic for the poor during the hour-long visit and the first lady also saw on-site employment provided for some 60 women.

Throughout her goodwill trip, Mrs. Clinton has focused on private sector efforts like Samata Sarana,

which in English means relief for all, to alleviate some of the human misery that abounds in South Asia.

While she has carefully avoided being drawn into a discussion of budget-cut pressure in the United States that threatens to gut U.S. foreign aid programmes, the outspoken message of her journey has been that America's humanitarian efforts are important.

"The United States has been of great assistance in this region of the world for many, many decades, and I'm pleased to see the results of those years of effort. The kinds of investments we have made in the people of the countries I visited has produced results," she said.

Mrs. Clinton, who visited Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh before coming to Sri Lanka for an overnight visit, was due back in Washington early Thursday.

N. Korea condemns Seoul's military exercise

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea Wednesday accused South Korea of trying to obstruct a nuclear deal by staging a mass military exercise.

South Korea's six-day long combined tactical exercise is the largest it has staged in recent years. It comes as worries escalate over the fate of a U.S.-brokered nuclear deal aimed at opening North Korea's secretive nuclear programme.

The exercise is a "premeditated military provocation to hinder the implementation of the (North Korea) — U.S. framework agreement," the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The exercise, which began Monday, involves 80,000 troops plus an undisclosed number of reservists.

Seoul has said the exercise had been planned long before the nuclear discussions hit its current snag.

North Korea said the exercises are aimed at raising tensions to an "extreme pitch" and threatened to answer "fire with fire and punish the provocateurs a thousand fold."

It had issued a similar warning Tuesday, but had not linked the threat to the current nuclear deadlock.

Meanwhile, South Korean delegates left Wednesday to attend high-level talks in New York with the United States and Japan for United States talks on the reactors.

Reports said Seoul is to ask Washington and Tokyo to hold off improving ties with North Korea until the Communist country resolves the deadlock by agreeing to take South Korean reactors.

Last October, North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear programme, suspected of fuelling weapons development, with Washington promising to provide alternative fuel and replacement reactors, along with better ties.

But almost six months after the deal was outlined, North Korea is refusing to accept the replacement reactors designated by the U.S. side.

North Korea has cited safety in rejecting reactors from its rival South Korea, but the real reason is believed to be pride.

The two Koreas remain technically at war 42 years after the end of the Korean War, with some two million troops facing off across the tense demilitarised zone.

North Korea's ambassador to Moscow said Tuesday that Pyongyang hoped to build at least one atomic reactor using Russian technology. ITR-TASS news agency said.

"We know what Russian atomic reactors are like," the agency quoted Son Song-Pil as saying.

Russia says it is ready to join an international consortium aimed at underwriting a \$4.5 billion nuclear deal for North Korea under which the United States, Japan and South Korea aim to build a new light-water reactor for Pyongyang.

The consortium was set up under a pact Washington signed with North Korea last October. Pyongyang committed itself to halt its existing nuclear programme, believed to conceal a weapons development drive, in return for a light-water reactor.

Ambassador Son recalled that Moscow had agreed in 1985 to build a nuclear power station in North Korea and had even decided where it should be located. The deal was later put on ice as the former Soviet Union gradually cut funding to its hardline ally.

In a separate development, North Korea declared Wednesday it would pull its ambassador out of Poland, the latest move in a diplomatic row following the withdrawal of Polish ceasefire monitors from the volatile Korean peninsula last February.

"We are left with no other choice but to drastically cut the staffs of the DPRK (North Korea) mission in Warsaw including the ambassador," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

"Poland will have to be held fully responsible for the disgraceful record left in the nearly five decades long history of relations between the two countries," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the Korean Central News Agency monitored here.



A Hutu boy, one of six people from Gasorwe Burundian soldiers shot and backed villagers village being treated in Mayinga hospital after to death, lies in a cot (AFP photo)

Burundi reports fresh massacre

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi Radio reported a fresh massacre Wednesday as the U.N. refugee agency piled pressure on Tanzania to reopen its border to frightened Hutus.

State radio said 20 Hutu villagers were killed at Muhanga, in the northern province of Kayanza, in a revenge attack by Tutsi civilians.

The radio, long considered by foreign diplomats to be biased in favour of the Tutsi minority, said the Hutus were killed in revenge for the prior murder of six Tutsis from one family.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was investigating several reported massacres of Hutus in northern Burundi, spokesman Peter Kessler said in Nairobi.

"We are trying to verify these reports today," he said. The UNHCR and other agencies were pressuring Tanzania to rescind its decision last Friday to close its border with Burundi to avoid being swamped by Rwandan Hutu refugees and Burundian Hutus fleeing Tutsi violence.

Tanzania, which already shelters 750,000 Rwandan Hutus since last year's genocide and civil war, says it cannot accept more refugees. It particularly objects to receiving Burundian Hutus terrorised by their own army, which is 95 per cent Tutsi.

Mr. Kessler said crowds of Hutus were still massed on the Burundi side of the border at Kahanga. About 9,000 of them had been transferred to an existing camp at Muganga, he said.

UNHCR officials in Burundi said Tuesday that Tanzanian troops are forcibly expelling hundreds of Burundian Hutu refugees who slipped across the border before it closed.

Diplomats say the fragile Burundi government's authority is virtually nonexistent outside the capital Bujumbura while the Tutsi-dominated military and Tutsi gunmen rule in the interior.

The army and Tutsi thugs recruited from ranks of refugees by previous bouts of bloodletting are behind the massacres, according to survivors, diplomats and aid workers.

Most experts doubt a genocide in Burundi on the scale of Rwanda, where up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were butchered by Hutu troops and militiamen last year.

But they forecast much more violence as long as ethnic militants drive the tiny country, killing with impunity.

"Why did I have to be born a Hutu?" an old man, barefoot and still shaking with fear, muttered repeatedly in the northeastern village of Kizi Tuesday.

Accounts from Kizi residents largely substantiated reports from aid workers and diplomats that more than 400 Hutus had been shot, slashed and clubbed to death by troops and Tutsi militants since Wednesday in the Gasorwe region including Kizi.

They conflicted with a Burundian military spokesman saying he knew of only some 20 killed in the area last week when troops hunted for Hutu gunmen who had taken civilian hostages.

An army statement on state radio Tuesday night denied the foreign media reports of 400 dead at Gasorwe which it said were sourced to U.S. Ambassador Robert Krueger.

Clinton stops CIA ties with Guatemala unit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has stopped covert CIA ties with a Guatemalan army intelligence unit, but the U.S. spy agency retains other links with Guatemala on matters such as drug control, a White House official said.

Mr. Clinton's decision, made Monday, was the latest development in an unfolding controversy over charges that Guatemalan officers in the CIA's pay killed U.S. and Guatemalan citizens several years ago.

He said he didn't think Secretary of State Warren Christopher had known about it either when Mr. Christopher, quizzed Sunday on CBS TV's Face The Nation, said he was satisfied no U.S. money was going to Guatemala now.

As soon as the president learned of the link Monday, he terminated it, said the official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

The Washington Post said Tuesday the Guatemalan military unit concerned was suspected of human rights abuses and was receiving several hundred thousand dollars a year from the CIA for equipment and training.

It said the relationship had continued despite Mr. Clinton's decision in 1993 to revoke an earlier authorisation by former President Ronald Reagan for CIA covert action to combat terrorism, subversion and Cuban influence in the region.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Mr. Clinton was satisfied necessary changes had been made in the U.S. links with Guatemala to reflect concerns over "activities by the Guatemalan military," he declined to elaborate.

The White House official said the CIA would maintain other links with Guatemalan officials involving drug policing and things deemed to be in the U.S. national interest.

He said the United States gets a lot of information about drug cartels and human rights abuses through sources developed in intelligence-gathering.

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Mr. Clinton found out Monday that some backchannel CIA ties to the Guatemalan military were still going on without his knowledge, or the knowledge of national security adviser Anthony Lake, the White House official said.

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Russian MPs back bill on Chechenya talks, amnesty

MOSCOW (AFP) — Draft legislation aimed at paving the way for top-level peace talks between Moscow and Chechen rebel leaders cleared its first stage in the Russian parliament Wednesday.

The draft proposals, if they become law, will allow the government to begin talks with Chechen rebels to obtain an unconditional ceasefire in the breakaway Caucasus republic, shattered by over three months of war since Moscow's sledgehammer intervention in December.

They also provide for an amnesty for "members of illegal armed groups" — Moscow's term for Chechenya's rebels — in order to "accelerate the peace process and end the fighting."

The legislation, the first reading of which was adopted 228 votes to 56 by the Duma or lower house, also provides for the withdrawal of all Moscow's troops when the conflict ends, "except those who are stationed there permanently," it said, without indicating numbers.

The bill would allow the establishment of a special commission of cabinet and parliamentary representatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, mandated to carry out talks on a political settlement in the region.

However, it does not specify with whom those discussions will be held.

The Chechen military said Monday that talks between their representative Aslan Maskhadov and Russian troops Commander Anatoly Kulikov are to go ahead Thursday.

The Kremlin has always refused to talk to fugitive Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared independence from Moscow in 1991, and led fierce opposition to Moscow.

The bill also paves the way for the election of a new parliament in Chechenya, before which a "representative organ" would be set up, comprising "politicians, religious personalities and representatives of the Chechen diaspora in Russia."

The draft proposals were lodged by Vice-Prime Minister Sergei Shakrai's Party of Russian Unity and Concord, which up to now was a staunch supporter of the Russian intervention in the tiny Caucasus republic.

It was backed by the Communists, which were opposed to the conflict, but Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party voted against the bill, saying that it was "premature and did not take into account the interests of the Russian population in Chechenya."

The bill is to go through its second reading on April 15. Deputies rejected another proposal which allowed for elections to be held in Chechenya as early as May on June.

Meanwhile Russian forces resumed their overflights and shelling of separatist positions in southern Chechenya early Wednesday after a three-day interruption caused by fog.

The mist which blanketed the region since Sunday, lifted Wednesday and at 0630 (0430 GMT) the Russian guns opened up on Shali, a town 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Grozny the capital.

Chechen separatists moved their temporary headquarters out of Ghalhi some days ago when it became clear the town would soon be overrun in the Russians' southward advance. However groups of dihardards are still holding out amid the ruins.

In the past few days, Russian troops have seized control of Shali and Gudumers, 30 kilometres (30 miles) east of Grozny. Chechen forces said they were expecting a renewed air onslaught in the southern highlands where Chechen forces have retreated along with tens of thousands of civilians refugees.

1st results show no problems on Romanian plane

BUCHAREST (R) — First official results from the inquiry into last week's Romanian Airbus crash which killed all 60 people on board have not detected any problems, officials said Wednesday.

The commission investigating the crash of the Brussels-bound Tarom Airlines plane said initial analysis of cockpit voice recordings showed there were no unusual noises and nothing out of the ordinary in the drill followed by the crew.

"The pilot-to-co-pilot channel recorded talks inside the cockpit which accord with those specified in cockpit lists and confirm execution of manoeuvres abroad in a normal succession and on time," the commission said in a statement broadcast on national radio.

"The cockpit noise channel recorded normal noises generated by the coupling and operation of on board devices and systems and the engine noise, without any other special noises."

The commission stressed it was still waiting for electronic flight data to be decoded, evidence from the crash scene and details of flight plans before it could get a full understanding of events.

The Airbus A310 crashed in a snow storm last Friday shortly after takeoff on a flight to Brussels from Bucharest's Iotopeni Airport. Thirty-two of those killed were Belgian.

According to newspaper reports Tuesday, the co-pilot reported problems just before it plunged to the ground minutes after takeoff.

"What the hell is going on in the back?" the independent daily Romania Liberta quoted co-pilot Ionel Stoi as saying on the cockpit voice recording.

Romanian investigators cast doubt on that report and another from Belgium quoting Stoi as saying "this one is wrong" in an apparent reference to a fault showing on his control panel.

"I personally have not heard Stoi's voice but maybe I am hard of hearing," Sorin Stoicescu, head of the Investigating Commission, told Reuters Tuesday.

Germany urges rich nations to protect climate

BERLIN (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday urged industrialised states attending the U.N. climate conference to commit themselves firmly to cutting emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by half by the year 2000, Mr. Kohl said.

Developing countries have put forward a draft calling for the negotiations which will follow the Berlin conference in lead to sharp emissions cuts next century by the developed world.

Philippines Environment Minister Angel Alcala, addressing the conference on behalf of developing countries, said the industrialised countries responsible for most greenhouse emissions were not doing enough even to meet current pledges.

"We are united in the conclusion that present commitments... remain inadequately implemented," he said, adding that the Third World needed money and technology to meet their commitments.

Environmentalists welcomed Mr. Kohl's remarks.

"This was the first time that someone has said we need to do something here, to have reductions in CO₂," Stephan Singer of the World Wide Fund for Nature said.

The EU is already committed to cutting its own output. But progress at the conference has been blocked by its inability to persuade major producers of greenhouse gases such as the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand to join in.

Diplomatic-level negotiations argued well into the early morning in their second straight night-time session but failed to achieve a breakthrough.

"The negotiations will continue. No compromise has been reached," a spokesman for the German delegation said, adding that the frantic manoeuvring would resume later Wednesday.

The major air polluters fear that cutting back on greenhouse gases — mainly the fossil-fuel product CO₂ — will shackle their industry and hit economic growth.

But Mr. Kohl told delegates: "It is a dangerous mistake to think that economic growth can be achieved in the long term at the expense of nature and the environment."

Negotiators in Berlin hope to finish up with a mandate setting out the terms of a fresh set of climate talks leading up to the signing of a binding international protocol on climate action by 1997.

The United Nations said Wednesday the permanent secretariat of the United Nations Climate Convention will be located in Bonn after the German city left Geneva in an informal vote.

"There is a consensus for Bonn," a United Nations spokeswoman said.

Two other candidates, the Uruguayan capital Montevideo and Toronto in Canada, had already been eliminated in voting Tuesday.

Geneva had been an unofficial favourite for the seat of the secretariat because it already hosts the interim secretariat and because it is the site of the U.N. Environmental Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation.

but he confirmed that among those named in the papers are Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and veteran politicians Govan Mbeki and Malter Sisulu.

The Johannesburg Star said Wednesday Mrs. Mandela was seeking a court order forcing her husband to disclose reasons why he fired her and demanding that ANC members stop criticising her in public and discussing the reasons for her dismissal.

However, the president's statement said Mr. Mandela was not obliged to give reasons for dismissing a minister, "a practice recognised in all modern democracies."

Meanwhile, the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party will hold an emergency meeting this weekend to decide whether to abandon South Africa's constitution-making process after Wednesday's deadline for international mediation passed without progress.

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) had given ANC and the formerly-ruling National Party (NP) until Wednesday to set up international mediation on the position of the Zulu monarch and the powers and functions of provinces.

But the ANC has rejected mediation, saying there is no dispute at present, while NP leader and deputy president, F.W. de Klerk, said Tuesday that the three parties should meet in order to agree what should be mediated.

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Shared destiny, responsibility

IN ACCEPTING the Care International Humanitarian Award for "his distinguished services to humanity," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stressed the need for urgent action to address humanitarian issues worldwide. Pointing out that the "fragile social web has collapsed" the Crown Prince said that humanitarian action should target the root causes of the problems that bring about so much suffering to so many people around the world.

Prince Hassan was chosen for the award for, among other things, his role in promoting a "new international humanitarian order" that urges new global ethics of human responsibility and care. The need for this order "amidst the dark despair of the 20th century" cannot be clearer. Man-made as well as natural disasters have killed millions of people. Human beings in different parts of the world are suffering needlessly: images of starving refugees and sick children are constant reminders of the agony to which a shockingly large number of people are subjected, of the urgency of the need to end this agony.

This is a situation that humanity should not, cannot, accept to live with. The responsibility for changing it is a shared one. But the ability to do so varies among the different nations of the world. Accordingly, the greater burden of bringing about this change falls on the more developed nations, those with the economic and technical abilities to make a difference.

As Prince Hassan pointed out, humanitarian aid that treats the symptoms while ignoring the causes is worse than no aid at all. One-time aid that targets the consequences of any urgent disaster will not lead to a lasting remedy to the social, economic and educational imbalances that often account for the suffering of many people. The new humanitarian order that humanity needs should address the economic disparities that often put the have-nots at a disadvantage that will continue to hinder development unless it is checked and immediately so. On the short-term, it is the have-nots who will be most adversely affected by the failure of the world to create a human order that would seek to end the suffering of all peoples. But, on the long-term, the whole world, especially the industrialised and rich North, will have to share the consequences of failing to redress the imbalances that divide the peoples of the earth.

The growing interdependence and interconnectedness among countries of the world have made it inevitable that instability in any part of the world will have its reverberation long beyond its immediate locality. The industrial world will not continue to prosper without the markets of the less developed countries. The long-term well-being of the developed North will depend on the long-term well-being of the underdeveloped South. Only the blind can ignore this fact in the new political and economic world orders. Hence is the importance of the building of a new humanitarian order that would focus on alleviating the suffering of the less fortunate people of the world, assist in the development of the less endowed countries and place the human being at the top of its list of priorities.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ON THE eve of the United Nations Security Council review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, Al Dustour Arabic daily on Wednesday dealt with the topic saying the continuation of the sanctions is clearly unjustified. The paper said it has become clear that the continuation of the sanctions is a public declaration by the U.S. to the Security Council, if not a pure American decision that is forced on the council. The paper said the continuation of this siege, which starves the Iraqi people and constitutes a reminder of the medieval sieges, has lost all justification and has become a crime against humanity. It said millions of innocent civilians, especially children and women who had no role in the Gulf war, are being tortured and deprived of food and medicine as a result of the sanctions. It said since it is believed that all eloquent moral appeals will not succeed in breaking the siege as it enters its fifth year, there should be a vast popular Arab and Islamic movement to practise all possible pressure, especially on the U.S., which shows an unlimited underestimation of the feelings of hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims.

A COLOUMNIST in Al Ra'i, Ahmad Al Musleh, on Wednesday commended former Yemeni president Ali Nasser Mohammad for his self-criticism and for establishing an Arab strategic studies centre which is currently holding its first meeting in Damascus with the attendance of 170 Arab intellectuals. The writer said he was pleased by Mr. Mohammad's description of the way in which decisions made in the Arab World, Mr. Musleh said the former Yemeni president hopes that the establishment of this centre would help Arab decision-makers to take well-studied decisions through the use of a pan-Arab national information network specialised in political, social, economic, cultural, defence and other fields. The writer asked what new could this centre add to the work of the existing pan-Arab institutions? Within this context, he said, the prevailing situation proves that joint-Arab action institutions are almost dead or paralysed. He added that fences and walls are becoming firmer among Arab countries at a time when they are being removed elsewhere in the world. Still, he welcomed the establishment of the centre and voiced hope that it will play a constructive role.

The View from Academia

Picnic facilities, picnic ethics and the authorities

SPRING IN our part of the world is a particularly nice season. The scenery in most parts of the Kingdom is spectacular indeed and the weather is extremely benign and congenial to all sorts of outings. On most week days, but especially on weekends, people seek the many beautiful hills and valleys for fresh air, for spotting the various exotic flowers and plants which blossom in abundance this time of year, for fun, for recreation and for food feasts. Unfortunately, however, such happy picture is often incomplete: Many inconveniences, frustrations and (at times) fatal incidents occur, turning such a pleasant experience into an unpleasant one and such a blessing into a curse.

The inconveniences and frustrations abound. Take, for example, the outing space itself. Very often, it is difficult to find a place to picnic. Most public space is off limits for picnickers, for a variety of reasons — some areas are off-limits because the authorities wish to protect the trees from picnickers (and probably rightly so), some for military and security purposes, and some because they are privately owned or have been declared private, etc. In the places you find, there are hardly any facilities: no garbage containers, no benches, no barbecue grills, no parking space. Most roads leading to such places are either extremely narrow or in very bad shape. The idea of a national, regional or local park (with the clear exception of the Amman National Park) is almost nonexistent. As in the case of the many activities we find ourselves engaged in our society at large, the experience of picnicking is extremely uncatered and uncared for, disorganised, arbitrary, haphazard and chaotic.

The lack of organisation, commitment and responsibility vis-a-vis picnicking on part of the concerned authorities is matched (outmatched even) by a most careless, reckless and irresponsible behaviour on part of the picnickers themselves.

Many picnickers come to the scene in large vehicles, not just buses (which is okay, even though many of our roads leading to outing areas are too narrow for buses) but in lorries and trucks of all shapes and sizes. Some of these vehicles cannot park on the side of the road, which is too small for them, so they have to cram themselves into the already cramped space. And it does not matter how many trees they bump into and damage, how much of the view

they block, how much smoke and fume they emit (I do not know why many drivers of such vehicles keep the engine running after they park), how many kids they are about to run into or actually run over, etc.

One does not know whether to keep one's eyes on the view or on one's own children. It has become fashionable, it seems, for motorist picnickers to park not on the roadside but under the tree they wish to sit under. I cannot for the life of me know how some of our motorists get their vehicles under trees in some of our deep valleys and precipitous hills, trees which sheep have a tough time reaching.

But imagine also what happens when truck-loads of humans are emptied into a small space: the noise they make, the garbage they leave behind, the mess they punctuate nature with when they respond to the call of nature (in the absence of bathrooms, nature becomes a bathroom), the branches of trees they cut to play with or to decorate their vehicles, the fire hazard they cause when they dump burning coal and embers and leave. You get the picture.

Such recklessness becomes a lot more hazardous and dangerous when picnickers come to water reservoirs. Do you think a driver who forced a car under a tree on a precipitous hill would hesitate one second to take a swim in a harmless-looking lake? Do you think a child who is let loose from a truck-load, without any instruction or guidance from his/her parents, would hesitate one moment to take a dive in water, especially if nobody is there to stop him or her? And who is there to stop him/her?

Something must always be done, and speedily. The first thing we say is what we always say when we tackle problems of this nature: education. Parents have to take themselves seriously (and in my opinion, a comfortable majority of parents in our society do not qualify as parents). It is their job, it is their duty, it is their calling and mission in life to enlighten their kids, to make them see and understand, to explain what danger is to them, to lay out the rules and to train them to obey and respect them. But can we trust the parent who crams the car under and into a tree on the said hill to be responsible parent? Teachers have also to take themselves seriously. And the teaching syllabus has to be taken seriously. What is the use of 16 years of learning or

more if they do not have a tangible impact on my behaviour in public? What is the use of education if it does not teach me to respect the rights of others? What is the use of it if it does not teach me to comprehend the concept of danger and limits?

But we do not want discourse on education to be an excuse for procrastination. We do not want to wait until the generation is enlightened and educated — until we learn to park on the side of the road and to put out the fire after we barbecue or not to mistake cars for donkeys and sheep. We want the authorities to act now.

First of all, we want to define outing areas more clearly and to expand them. And we want facilities in those areas. We are all taxpayers and we have the right to see concrete results in return. We want (excuse the level of our aspirations) garbage containers, bathrooms, barbecue grills, parking space, etc.

Above all, we want official guidance and supervision. Why is it that in most fortunate countries in the world there are guards and supervisors at outing and picnic areas and here there are not? Should not there be guards (alert and responsible guards that is) at our reservoirs whose job is to prevent reckless adults and innocent children from swimming in these fatal places? Why do we leave everything to the conscience or personal judgement of the individual and to chance? A couple of days ago, I read in the newspapers that, in one day, four people drowned in separate incidents, at some of our reservoirs. And the season has not yet started. We are not the U.S. or Canada; we do not have so many lakes, reservoirs and seas, and surely we can appoint some guards at our major reservoirs. But even in Canada and the U.S., where many people swim well and appreciate danger more than we do, you are not allowed to swim except in the presence of a lifeguard. But we, and most of us are not good swimmers, can swim anywhere in the Dead Sea or the Gulf of Aqaba, without the presence of lifeguards.

We need speedy action regarding this important activity to stop the ongoing inconvenience and to prevent more tragic accidents from happening. We are not doing much at the level of prevention; what we do a lot of is cry over spilled milk.

M. KAHIL



Pretending didn't help Somalia and won't help Haiti

The U.S. administration has an important lesson to learn from the conflicts in Haiti and Somalia. It is that there can be 'no multilateralism without unilateralism'

By Thomas L. Friedman
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — As President Bill Clinton strode onto the makeshift stage to address U.S. troops in Haiti before they headed off their mission to the United Nations, music started to blare through loudspeakers.

Only it was not "Hail to the Chief" with which U.S. soldiers greeted their commander. It was the rock-and-roll song "Round and Round." There was a celebratory, high-fives feel to the ceremony, as both the president and the troops savored the moment: They had defied the critics, made the Haiti mission something to be proud of and given this sad, dirt-poor nation a second chance to climb out of the abyss of military rule in which it had wallowed for the last three years.

But on the edges of the ceremony there were whispers — allegations that Haiti's interior minister was involved in the murder of a leading opposition figure. Those whispers were a reminder that the habits of violence here die hard, and that while the United States has succeeded in stabilising Haiti, no one knows for how long. The uncertainty gnaws at everyone here. It might also explain why the U.S. troops greeted Mr.

Clinton with "Round and Round." It was a warning. The main verse is: "Another day, another way, what comes around goes around."

If Mr. Clinton is to prevent Haiti's past from haunting its future there is one thing he should be thinking about: Somalia. Remember what went wrong in Somalia. It can be summed up in two words: "Let's pretend."

In May 1993 the Clinton administration formally turned over the Somalia rescue operation to the U.N. Mr. Clinton took a walk on the White House lawn, flanked by smiling U.S. troops who had just returned from Mogadishu.

That picture was meant to symbolise a mission accomplished and a shift of responsibility to the United Nations — as if the U.N. were some independent force from another planet. From then on, reporters asking about Somalia policy were told to call U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali at (212) 963-5012.

But it was all pretend. The reality was that thousands of U.S. troops were still in Somalia — the backbone of the operation — but under a Turkish U.N. commander.

Militarily, the U.N. in Somalia was the United States, but psychologically, the administration had checked out. So there was no policy coordination. And in short order, 18 American soldiers got killed. Mr. Clinton got blamed. United Nations peacekeeping got discredited and Somalia's hopes got destroyed.

Flash forward to last week. Same president. Same photo-opportunity. Same message: mission accomplished — we're turning this baby over to the U.N. Mr. Clinton is right; U.S. troops shouldn't stay in Haiti indefinitely.

But during this transition — from now until February, when Haiti is supposed to have a functioning government, police and new elections — it is essential that the administration keep a vigilant eye on this place. If Haiti slips back into the abyss, let it not be because the United States pretended that it was all up to the U.N.

The early signs are good: The 6,000-strong Haiti U.N. force, which includes 2,400 U.S. soldiers, is being led by an American general. (The only bad sign from the ceremonies here was that most of the white doves that President Clinton and Mr. Aristide released at the

end refused to fly. Several doves that did get off the ground flew too low and were snatched by the Haitian crowd.)

If the Clinton foreign policy team has learned anything these past two years I hope it is this: There is no multilateralism without unilateralism. Unless you first show people that you are ready to go alone, you will never have partners to go with you. In Somalia, the Clinton team thought that the U.N. could substitute for U.S. leadership, power and vision. It cannot.

In Haiti, Mr. Clinton realised that the only way to invade and get the job done was to go alone and look for U.N. partners later. What was true at the start is true at the end. The only way to withdraw with the job done right is to maintain responsibility and look for U.N. backing later.

Have no illusions, Mr. President, you just handed off to yourself in Haiti. Think of Haiti that way, and you might be able to keep it in your foreign policy success column. Play let's pretend again, and what went around here before will surely come around again.

The New York Times.

Authoritarianism seen on rise in ex-Soviet Union

By Anatoly Verbin
Reuter

MOSCOW — The winds of democracy appear to be subsiding in many parts of the former Soviet Union where state leaders, most of them former top communists, are looking increasingly authoritarian, political analysts say.

Many of the leaders, battling parliament, are set to stay in power into the next millennium and some have extended their terms in office without elections, saying this is necessary to push reforms forward and secure stability in the transition period.

Opponents explain the trend as the legacy of the communist past and a lack of democratic traditions.

"I would love to take our deputies in parliament and send them into orbit aboard one of our rockets," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said in a recent interview. "We would welcome them back, say, in two years with open arms."

Critics say Russian leader Boris Yeltsin is no exception, even though he has committed himself to economic reforms.

In January 1991, when troops of the then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev used tanks to crush what the Kremlin saw as a separatist rebellion in Lithuania, Mr. Yeltsin flew to the Baltic republics to support them against Moscow.

But, in December 1994, Mr. Yeltsin sent thousands of troops and heavy armour to put an end to Chechnya's separatism in Russia. Indiscriminate use of force, with thousands of civilians killed, triggered an outcry at home and abroad. But the Russian leader has shown little remorse.

"Chechnya really indicated a move towards a tough authoritarian regime," Igor Kiyamkin, a leading Russian political analyst, told Reuters. "A fully authoritarian regime has not formed yet, but the tendency is deepening."

Many of Mr. Yeltsin's democratic allies abandoned him over Chechnya and portray him as manipulated by a "party of war" hawks intending to keep him in power for their own goods.

Mr. Kiyamkin said Mr. Yeltsin's shift towards authoritarian rule started in the autumn of 1993, when he dissolved parliament and blasted it with tanks to suppress a hardline rebellion.

Mr. Yeltsin's arch-foe, former vice-president Alexander Rutskoi, accuses

the president and his entourage of preparing to cancel presidential elections scheduled for 1996.

Kremlin aides firmly dismissed Mr. Rutskoi's charge and say Mr. Yeltsin has indisputable democratic credentials.

But Mr. Kiyamkin said a move towards authoritarian rule looked inevitable, although it was not clear how tough it would become — keeping some democratic features, such as elections, or not.

Respected emigre writer Vladimir Maksimov warned of the dangers in an article before his recent death, demanding a "stop (to) the drift towards authoritarian stagnation which is lethal and destructive."

Elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, although all the newly independent states deny they are undemocratic, critics see authoritarian trends.

In Turkmenistan, President Saparmurat Niyazov, who prefers the name of Turkmenbashi (father of all Turkmen), enjoys almost unlimited power and has used a referendum to extend his presidency for an extra five years, until 2002.

Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan won a similar referendum last month and will rule until the year 2000.

Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, who was due to face the voters in December 1996, has decreed a referendum on April 29 on whether to extend his term in office until December 2000.

Mr. Nazarbayev disbanded parliament this month after the constitutional court in his oil-rich former Soviet republic declared the general election of March 1994 illegal. Mr. Nazarbayev said he would rule by decree pending fresh parliamentary polls.

In Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev appears to be preparing to stage a similar poll, while Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov organised elections making it impossible for the opposition to run.

The president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, is trying to force parliament to go and is demanding more powers.

In Azerbaijan, veteran leader Heydar Aliyev has launched a crackdown on dissent and many political opponents have been arrested since an attempted coup was crushed last month.

In Ukraine, Mr. Kuchma and his parliament, acting together for once, have cracked down on separatism in Crimea.

Recognis



She rose to prominence in her native... Despite... direct order... her singing in... Marzieh... her homeland... meeting in Pa... she might... voice outside... repor

Only the lonely

By Jean-Claude Elias

The man-machine relation has always been more or less problematic. The more sophisticated the machine is, the more difficult the relation.

While the machine, which is a man-made product, has always proven useful to man — otherwise why would he have invented it? — it is sometimes blamed for the negative consequences of its usage by man. What easier escape than putting the blame on a "thing" that cannot argue with you or defend itself?

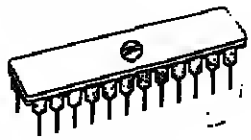
They say that guns are dangerous. We all know about the old philosophical question that we are not trying to address here anyway — it's not guns but their usage by man that makes them dangerous; guns are dummy objects. Debatable...

Computers have become an essential tool in our daily life and already some vital functions in our society simply cannot work without computers. Banks, airlines, telephone and satellite communications for instance simply cannot operate without computers. Personal Computers (PCs) however are being accused of driving people, the young more particularly, to loneliness, to isolation.

If computer games take the major share of the blame, PC communications are also targeted. Though not common in the Middle East, not yet at least, "remote home workers" have become a new species in some industrialised Western countries. They stay at home, working from a PC that is linked, via the regular telephone network, to their employer. The type of jobs that could be done through such a system are many: translation, typing, book keeping, writing, desk top publishing, financial analysis, and so on. The "remote home workers" rarely go to see the boss, even their salary is directly transferred to their bank accounts at the end of the month.

Last year, the American music industry discovered a way to save money by asking well-known (therefore

chip talk



expensive) singers to "phone in" their vocal contribution via the EDNET (Entertainment Digital Network) instead of coming to the recording studio. Tony Bennett in New York, Lisa Minelli in Brazil and Charles Aznavour in London sang duets with Frank Sinatra who was in... Los Angeles. The recording was of laser CD quality thanks to the fiber-optic telephone lines and the disc a major hit.

We still haven't found an equilibrium for a rational "modus vivendi" with hi-tech equipment. It is certainly not technology's fault but ours. We must learn how to evaluate things. If Lisa Minelli can't really make it to Los Angeles to meet Sinatra and sing with him then it's probably alright to do it through the EDNET. On the other hand if nothing prevents her from making the trip, then maybe singing with the crooner, together in the same room, physically, next to each other may create a warmer recording and a more naturally sounding recording.

If it's raining outside and all your friends are busy, then playing a computer tennis game may be a good thing to do. On the other hand if the weather is Honolulu-like and your best pal invites you to play real tennis, on a real court, going to the PC would be a crazy thing to do.

Technology does not isolate us. We isolate ourselves. It may take us a while before we find a smooth, harmonious way to live with it.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqir

ASTOUNDING FACTS

— Only half an hour after he is born a mountain goat can stand quite firmly and indeed will most probably try to climb up the nearest hill.

☆☆☆

— A baby ostrich can run as fast as his parents — that is 40 mph — fast enough to escape from most hunters. And did you know that a kick from an adult is so powerful that it could break your leg!

☆☆☆

— Liu Ch'ing was born with two pupils in each eye! But this double deal of nature didn't stop him from entering public service and, in AD 965, he became the governor of Shansi province.

☆☆☆

— Following is a "mirror image" addition-with the same answer:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7 6 5 4 3 2 1
1 2 3 4 5 6	6 5 4 3 2 1
1 2 3 4 5	5 4 3 2 1
1 2 3 4	4 3 2 1
1 2 3	3 2 1
1 2	2 1
1	1

1,0 8 3, 6 7 6, 2 6 9 1, 0 8 3, 6 7 6, 2 6 9

☆☆☆

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— They always chat about so and so.

Innahom das'man yata'haddathoon an katha wa katha.

— I think so. Azonno thalik.

— I believe so. Aatakidu thalik.

— I've heard so. Lakad sa'mito thalik.

— I was told so. Qeela lee thalik.

— I'm afraid so. Akh'sha annal amra kathalik.

— I hope so. Ata'ash'shamo thalik.

— I said so. Qulto thalik.

LAUGHTER

★ A man went home by tram. On the way, he fell fast asleep until the tram had reached its terminus.

CONDUCTOR: (Waking him up): Where were you going, sir?

TRAVELLER: I was going to sleep, my dear.

☆☆☆

★ HUSBAND: I wonder why our home is so full of flies.

WIFE: So what? It seems you've forgotten that we're celebrating our honey-moon!

☆☆☆

★ TEACHER: What are the most important foundations Ramses II had left for Egypt?

PUPIL: Cinema Ramses, sir!!

☆☆☆

★ THE FIRST: "How do you get your salary?"

THE SECOND: "From writing."

THE FIRST: "What do you write?"

THE SECOND: "I write to my father who, in turn, sends me the money."

☆☆☆

★ A history teacher asked his pupils: "Who does not supported wars?"

All raised their fingers.

TEACHER: "You, stand up: Why do you hate wars?"

PUPIL: "Without wars, sir, we would have been feeling happy and comfortable and never exhausted ourselves by studying history."

☆☆☆

★ A university professor was driving his car in the campus when he saw a student running and leaving his three big barking dogs behind him. He tried to rescue him. So he parked his car, opened the door for him and cried: "Come along quickly. Get on and save your soul!"

"It's so great and so kind of you, sir. Most people never give me a lift when they see my three dogs with me."

☆☆☆

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1- At the mouth of which river is Dublin situated?

2- Stalingrad is now known as Volgograd, what was its original name?

3- What is a line of iambic hexameter called?

4- From what fruit is the liquor known as Kirsch distilled?

5- If you had a cadaceus, what would it be?

6- Men and women of ancient Greece wore similar garment, what was it called?

☆☆☆

GAMES FOR ALL

★ CHANGING WORDS

A short word is chosen, say "jam" and by altering one letter at a time the players change it to another word of the same length, say "rug". At each stage a word must be formed, e.g. jam, ram, rag, rug.

The player doing it in fewest stages wins. 5, 6, 7, letter words are quite suitable for carrying out this useful and interesting game.

☆☆☆

★ WHAT IS IT?

Each player smells a series of well-known odours while blindfold. Player or team with the best result wins. E.g. Petrol, lavender, coal, eucalyptus, onion, lentil soup, turpentine, etc.

☆☆☆

PUZZLES

How many shoes?

A prominent personage in Bologna thought he would bring great honour to himself by presenting shoes to all those in his native city who would, or could, wear them. Now, in that city five per cent, of the inhabitants are one-legged, and half of the others prefer to go barefoot.

How many shoes did he need to buy?

PEN PALS

Dear Sir,

I would like very much to find a pen-pal in Jordan, through your paper. I am interested in politics but also in stamp-collecting, photography, video and computers.

Thank you very much in advance.

Sincerely,

Jacob Shacharon,
P.O. Box. 13117,
61130 Tel Aviv,
Israel.

The ordinary world

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Last week was quite an eventful one. Two of the events that made it so were the Oscars and an amateur movie which confirms the existence of UFOs. At the Oscars, the majority of voters sensed an affinity with Forrest Gump's character who represented innocence, trust and generosity as opposed to the brutality of the characters in Pulp Fiction.

Gump shows America that, despite relentless social change, there is a streak, of small-town goodness personified by Gump that can never be tainted. The movie asks the viewer to feel, not think. In this sense, it fits neatly into the Academy's view that winning movies are expected to be fun, positive, idealistic, profitable and somehow connected to a higher ideal.

In Pulp Fiction on the other hand, John Travolta plays a gangster whose crowning moment is when he accidentally blows off the head of an inoffensive character sitting in the back of his car. Here, far from worrying about the death, Travolta frets about mopping the blood and brains splattered across the back window. At a stroke, violence loses its moral context and turns into a joke. Cartoon killing, Tom and Jerry style, is brought to a realistic landscape.

Everyone at the awards agreed that Gump was

soothing to the collective American conscience, a sweet antidote to the blood sprayed Quentin Tarantino movies Pulp Fiction and Natural Born Killers.

In spite of this, Tarantino remains adored by his fans. His appeal to the young rests upon a generation's view that there is no longer a ready-made moral framework, and a suspicion that those frameworks on offer are corroded by hypocrisy. His movies have touched a nerve in popular culture, so saturated with violence that it is affirmed by the comedy with which he treats his killings.

Another movie, one taken in the summer of 1947, in New Mexico in the USA, is the closest we now have to a proof that UFOs not only exist, but that they have landed on Earth. The film is grainy black and white, has no sound and shows a scene where two men in white coats are inspecting the inhabitant of a crashed aircraft. This alien is humanoid, of average height and slight build, has no hair, no eyes, nose or ears.

Over the years, a large body of evidence that we are being constantly visited by UFOs has slowly been accumulating with eye-witness accounts, photographs and videos. This new revelation appears to be the icing on the cake. It goes on show in Sheffield, England, in August of this year where there will also be a panel of specialists who will outline "new evidences" and theories of UFO sightings.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 6

2:00 Denise The Menace

2:30 My Secret Identity

3:00 NBA

4:00 Blue Heelers

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:30 The Blue Revolution

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

11:50 Burning Shores

Friday, April 7

1:00 Survival

2:00 Why Didn't Think Of That?

2:30 A Year In The Life

3:00 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:20 Time Watch

11:10 Dragons II

11:55 Feature Film

Saturday, April 8

2:00 Dog City

2:50 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer
Spring begins in the sub-Antarctic islands with petrels searching through the snow for their nests.

8:30 The Nanny

9:00 Documentary — Dive The World

9:10 Cape Rebel

Kerwin is set free, but now dishonoured by the British government, he is forced to join Sleet in the dangerous journey to West Africa.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Deadly Vows

Starring: Gerald McRafney & Peggy Lipton
The life of a married woman is on the line as her husband forces her to ask for a divorce.

12:00 Tanamera

Sunday, April 9

2:00 Animated Classics — Thumbina

3:00 Feature Film — The Spirit Chaser

Starring: Henry Thomas and Tony Barry
A boy disappears while trying to identify a strange object which rises from the bottom of a lake.

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Miniseries — Strauss Dynasty

12:00 Feature Film

Monday, April 10

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Voyager

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 South Beach

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Getting Gotti
Starring: Lorraine Bracco and Anthony Denison

12:00 The Hidden Room

12:30 Grace And Favour

Tuesday, April 11

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 1 Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Starring: Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones

Wednesday, April 12

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games and Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine

8:30 G.P.

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Snowy River

11:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Grease is good to Brooke Shields

By Frank Tautillo
Reuters

NEW YORK — Brooke Shields, the former child star whose career fizzled when she reached adulthood, says she's been given a second chance and she owes it all to Grease.

"I feel different," says the tall, striking actress. "I feel that though I've been in this business all my life, here were a few years of confusion."

Shields' movie career, which began with her role as a 12-year-old prostitute in Louis Malle's critically acclaimed *Pretty Baby*, had steadily gone downhill for much of the '80s, catching it's nadir with Brenda Starr, a movie filmed in 1986 that went unreleased for years.

But things are looking

up for the actress these days due to her work in the Broadway production of *Grease*.

Part of the reason is the stereotype-breaking role she's landed in the show. While her one-time "America's sweetheart" image may have made her a natural for the role of Sandy the "nice girl", Shields was asked to play the tough-talking Rizzo, leader of a gang known as the "Pink Ladies".

Shields mildly disputes that the role is as great an acting stretch as it seems. "If people really took the time to analyse the roles that I've played, and not just the public persona that has been projected on me, I think there's been a provocative nature to a lot of them," she told Reuters in a recent interview.

She concedes, however, that Rizzo is "mouthier than I am in real life, and much harder than I've become — although there's still a chance."

The real stretch in Shields' opinion has to do with the physical demands of doing a Broadway show. While she did some stage work while attending Princeton University, this is her first attempt at singing and dancing in front of an audience for two-and-a-half hours, eight times a week.

"I was attracted to it because it was a challenge," says the actress, adding that when she first considered doing the play she felt "an element of fear, and whenever I feel that, alarms go off and I think, 'you probably should do this.'"

To prepare for the role, Shields, who says she had always taken dancing lessons, "to keep in shape," stepped up her training to the point that she now finds herself to be in the best physical condition of her life.

A few months before she began the role, Shields, who said she "never before considered singing on this level," also began intensive vocal training.

The training has apparently paid off, as the producers of the show have taken the unusual step of re-issuing the Broadway cast recording, substituting her vocals for those of Rosie O'Donnell, who preceded Shields in the role.

Her stage success is promising to affect her

film career as well. "Producers who have come to see the show have ended up changing the roles they want to offer me," she says.

Shields cites one unnamed producer who was considering her for a "pat, even-keeled character" in a picture, who after seeing the show offered her another part, that of a "more psychotic, kind of mean, kind of wacko girl."

"It's really a thrill, because I've been able to do this strictly through performance, through a talent I'm working on and improving all the time," she says.

As for Shields' much talked-about personal life, she says she has no plans to marry current love-interest, tennis star Andre



Brooke Shields poses in front of a sketch of Brenda Starr

Agassi, but that they both believe in the relationship "100 per cent."

When asked, she said that the couple had discussed Agassi's recent decision to cut his trademark long hair, but she said the final decision was his,

adding: "I love it. Even more than I thought I would."

On the subject of an even-more-famous friend, Shields said that she has not spoken to Michael Jackson since his marriage to Lisa Marie Presley, but that she "knows that

they've been friends for a very long time, and from what I've seen he seems very happy."

Jacksoo once claimed that he and Shields were dating, but Shields later denied they were ever involved romantically.

Oscar-winning Russian film inspires pride back home

By Angela Charlton
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Lining up to see the Oscar-winning Russian film *Burnt By The Sun*, Muscovites were jowling with pride at its latest honour.

"It's about time the world is acknowledging the true value of Russian movies," said Irina Sokorukhina, a pensioner who has seen the film three times and cried each time. "This is what all movies should be."

Burnt By The Sun, writ-

ten and directed by Nikita Mikhalkov, received the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film of 1994.

But many Russians hope the Oscar will do more for the beleaguered Russian film industry than inspire pride in its viewers.

"This is not only good for Nikita (Mikhalkov), but very prestigious for Russian cinema in general," said Vladimir Khotinenko, who studied with Mikhalkov and has be-

come one of Russia's most acclaimed directors.

Khotinenko also thinks the Oscar will convince potential producers that films like *Burnt By The Sun* are worth funding. The film also won the Jury Grand Prix, or second prize, at the Cannes Film Festival last May.

Rasim Dargah-Zade, director of the Moskva movie theatre, said: "This is what Russian movie makers need to see. They don't need to make awful imitations of Western

films to be successful."

The cash-strapped movie industry is suffering from the collapse of the centralised Soviet distribution system and increasing outside competition.

And with ticket prices for acclaimed films such as *Burnt By The Sun* reaching an unprecedented 17,000 rubles (\$3.50), many Russians have written off the cinema as a luxury.

But not the hundreds of viewers packed in the

Moskva.

"This is true Russian art," said Marina Fedotova, a teacher who said the movie reminded her of her childhood in a village outside Moscow during the Stalin era. "You cannot put a price on that."

Burnt By The Sun, a tale of one family's experience with Stalinist repression of the late 1930s, stars Mikhalkov himself and his 7-year-old daughter, Nadezhda Mikhalkova.

Viewers say they appreciate *Burnt By The Sun* because, unlike the

many glasnost-era Russian films denouncing Stalin, it condemns no one.

"This movie shows the good and evil of everyone," Dargah-Zade said. "That time was not black and white. Mikhalkov captures that."

Khotinenko also said: "Nikita wanted to speak not as a politician, but as an artist."

Mikhalkov has not remained silent on the political front, however. Vokally anti-Yeltsin, the director has close ties to

hardliner Alexander Rutskoi.

The outspoken Mikhalkov expressed his frustration with the Kremlin last fall by insisting that *Burnt By The Sun* be released in the central Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod before coming to Moscow, which he has said is no longer a "real Russian city."

Yet *Burnt By The Sun* has seemed to transcend its director's politics, meeting unanimously glowing reviews from Russian critics and viewers

since its release.

"It's hard to say that I enjoyed the film," Sokorukhina said. "It's too exhausting. But our lives are exhausting. That's why this film means so much to all of us."

Even Khotinenko, often seen as a rival of Mikhalkov, had nothing but praise for the film.

"I'm ecstatic that he won this prize," Khotinenko said, his voice full of emotion. "It's so nice when there's justice in this world."

Britain's latest Hamlet brings Hollywood to Hackney

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — To play Hamlet is to confront and exhaustible spectrum of emotions, to invite judgment alongside the finest.

On the basis of Ralph Fiennes' recent opening in the Shakespearean role in London, it's also effective to draw Demi Moore to Hackney.

What, pray tell, is Hackney? The increasingly ursty working-class district in London's East End where Fiennes returned to the stage last month for the first time since Schind-

ler's List made him a film star and brought him an Academy Award nomination.

Moore, in London to hype the movie *Disclosure*, joined Emma Thompson, Diana Rigg, Ben Kingsley, Alan Bates and others applauding Fiennes' galvanic performance at the Feb. 28 press night.

A self-proclaimed hill-billy who never had seen the play before, Moore thought Fiennes' performance "spectacular," according to the tabloid *Evening Standard* newspaper.

In April, the production transferred to Broadway, opening May 2 just in time for the Tony Awards. The trajectory of the show makes Hackney, in effect, an out-of-town tryout in the way that productions decades ago used to play Boston or Philadelphia.

English critics were divided as to its merits.

"No doubt when it transfers to Broadway, New Yorkers will huy it as the real thing," sniffed the *Daily Mail*'s Jack Tinker, though the rival *Daily Express* thought Fiennes "extraordinary."

"A big disappoint-

ment," sighed the *Daily Telegraph*'s Charles Spencer, comparing the pre-opening hype to a new musical by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The more apt comparison, frankly, is to every Hamlet that has come before — or so it seems in British discussion of virtually all Shakespeare, and this play in particular.

Beedict Nightingale in the Times of London called Alan Cumming and Stephen Dillane "the most interesting of recent Danes."

The same newspaper, on the editorial page, pre-

dicted Fiennes would take New York as American matinee idol John Barrymore's Hamlet in 1925 took London.

The comparisons point up the elasticity of a part that can be sardonic or pained, febrile or fantastic as required.

While Dillane last November offered a prince cursed by intelligence who stood mockingly outside the Elsinore Court, Fiennes' Hamlet is an impetuous seeker of vengeance.

His volatility places his performance in the American tradition of such Ham-

lets as Kevin Kline rather than the dry, declamatory British tradition of Kenneth Branagh or Dillane.

Increasingly, it seems everyone wants to get in on the Hamlet act.

Keanu Reeves, an alumnus of Branagh's film Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, drew sell-out audiences and critical harpoon to the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, Canada, earlier this season to see him duel the verse — and laertes — as Hamlet.

Nor is Hamlet the exclusive domain of men alone. Diane Veoqra,

Frances De La Tour and Sarah Bernhardt are three actresses who have had a go at a role often regarded as a mirror of the time in which it is produced.

As theatrical litmus tests go, Hamlet makes reasonably good commercial sense. Despite the mixed reviews, the Fiennes Hamlet has added four performances to its limited run and looks as if it will sell out its engagement at the 900-seat Hackney Empire.

Its Broadway run is being billed as an event in a city that gets relatively little quality Shakespeare.

The talk already is that a best actor Tony is likely to go Fiennes' way.

Simon Russell Beale, Fiennes' Royal Shakespeare Company contemporary not long ago, is expected to pack the 252-seat Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden in yet another Hamlet in the fall.

That production's director, Sam Mendes, wasn't worried about bringing up the rear of a host of Hamlets.

"If we're last," Mendes said, "we can also be best."

Acclaim for weird Ring at Royal Opera

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — A modernist production of Richard Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* opera cycle which caused shocks with cross-dressing and zany-house sets has become a triumph at the Royal Opera House.

Bravos thundered from the auditorium after a heavily interpretive effort, drowning out altered boos for director

Richard Jones and designer Nigel Lowery who they joined the singers onstage.

The work is the third in the four-opera cycle which began in October last year with *Rhinegold* and *Valkyrie* and will be completed in October with *Twilight Of The Gods*.

Reaction to the first two operas was sharply split, but London's *Evening Standard* newspaper gave them its 1994 Opera Award for Outstanding

Production.

The first two operas were sellouts and it's impossible to get a seat for *Siegfried*, despite the breathtaking prices: the cheapest decent seat is £45.50 (\$72) and the best is £133.50 (\$212).

In this version of the struggle for power between dwarfs, giants and gods, hero Siegfried made his debut in orange-coloured trunks, rearing his sword Nothing in a fish kettle on a gas stove

and then chopping the stove in half to show its merite.

Mime, the villainous dwarf, wore a dress and ankle boots while Wotan, chief of the gods, was in a check sports coat.

Fafner, the dragon guarding the Rhinegold treasure, had a pumpkin head and an electric light bulb underneath when Siegfried decapitated him.

The mountain top on which heroine Brunhilde

sleeps has become a chimney stack up which a fly crawls mysteriously.

The magnificent singing by a cast of Wagnerian specialists conducted by Bernard Haitink seemed to defy the set and the costumes and the audience's giggles at the often stange tone of the translated lyrics projected above the stage.

German tenor Siegfried Jerusalem — that is his real name — sang the title role and Welsh soprano

Anne Evans was Brunhilde.

Unusually at Covent Garden the cast lacks an American, although the cycle is brilliantly lit by New Yorker Pat Collins.

Audience members interviewed afterward were mostly in favour.

"Penetrating, intelligent, brilliant and memorable. It found expression for the dark and difficult layers in the work even if some refused to eat it," said Jonathan Dove, a

classical music composer who writes operas.

"It was very interesting and surprising and I had heard bad things about the production. There were a few hits I couldn't understand but most of it was very clear, especially the psychological elements," said Gisela Braun, a schoolteacher from Dusseldorf, Germany.

Bill Plummer, a psychiatrist, said, "the whole point of Wagner is his complexity and the

different meanings that can be read into his work. I found some of the symbolism gross instead of leaving it to the imagination."

His mother Nora, who said she stood in line in "pouring rain" for two hours to get a ticket, remarked, "it was too weird. I didn't like the asymmetrical set and what was the point of the fly crawling up the chimney?"

Covering what's covering the season's top models

By Sarah E. Richards
The Associated Press

PARIS — Covering the season's top models might be like a posh gig: Lots of champagne in your hand, scintillating its with top couture ads.

Think again. The 2000 journalists in 43 countries who at home last week after Paris ready-to-wear shows tell a different story.

Pushing, shoving and fistcuffs marked the days of 100 shows, a mind-the-scenes trend

that underscores fashion's evolution from art to industry.

"I used to wear Sonia Rykiel to a Sonia Rykiel show," said Marylou Luther, of the International Fashion Syndicate who has covered clothes since 1969. "Now you dress for the war."

It is not for the pampered. Tickets are scarce, tempers are tested and the shows are perpetually late. Last week, a CNN cameraman was punched by a guard outside Claude Montana's show as reporters pressed to get inside.

Kym Canter, fashion

editor of the Washington Post Sunday Magazine, said her passes were stolen by someone who contacted the houses and had them sent to a false address.

Gone are the days when fashion scribes could feign the elegance of the runways. Like the clothes they cover, the reporters have evolved into an eclectic lot more akin to police reporters forever rushing to a new alarm.

Wait there's Claudia Schiffer on cue, the crowd drops coffee cups and leapfrogs over security ropes to get a shot, a word

about her engagement to David Copperfield.

"I've been here for three seconds. And they're like vultures. There's so much pushing and shoving," said a frazzled Kathleen Beckett, fashion columnist for the New York Post.

Kristine Heinz, a Swedish journalist who has covered fashion for 30 years, fell wearily into a chair after being strong-armed by a security guard away from Christian Lacroix's show.

"We're not used to being treated like this," she said, recalling more

peaceful times when there was one show a day and Coco Chanel sat on the stairs, offering interviews.

For Heinz, who writes for the Swedish paper *Arbetet*, the glamour is fading.

"The younger journalists think it's so easy. They think they can just jump into it. There's no elegance."

The new guard, dressed mostly in black, don't understand their role, Heinz contends.

"You have to be a bit of an artist to understand. It's in the blood. One has to have the spirit."

Heinz recently got her moment of glory despite the changing times.

"You know the woman wearing the big leopard-skin hat in the (Altman) film?" she gushed. "That was me."

Colleagues wonder whether today's toned-down dress reflects the 1990s style of muted elegance or whether there is no longer time to worry about flair and flamboyance.

"I don't think the ones putting on a show are the ones writing," said Megan Dissly, of *Newsweek* magazine.

"They hardly have their heads up, they're writing and drawing pictures so fast."

Covering fashion is not for the synonym-impaired or those fearful of venturing beyond the Crayola colour spectrum.

You must know your reds: From Chinese red to Russian red, to Hermes, fire-engine or cherry red.

"It's really hard to describe clothes, thinking of a new word to say dress or fashion or skirt," explained Patrick McCarthy, executive editor of *Women's Wear Daily*. "You need a fine writer to

do it well."

Constance White, fashion reporter for the New York Times, stressed that she must constantly study trends and key players to stay on top.

"You live it, you breathe it and you come to know it very well," White said.

Yet, for all the threats to sanity and health, the same journalists return each year, addicted to a job many say they could not live without.

"When a good talent turns out talent, there's nothing like it," McCarthy said.

'Head injury plus vulnerability gene raises risk of Alzheimer's'

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A blow to the head that knocks you out can raise your chance of getting Alzheimer's disease someday, but only if you carry a particular gene, a study suggests.

Elderly people who had a severe blow to the head and carried the gene were 10 times as likely to have Alzheimer's as were people with neither risk factor. A head injury

alone, without the gene, did not raise the risk.

The gene might act on a head injury by turning a normal repair process into a step toward disease, said Dr. Richard Mayeux, a professor of neurology, psychiatry and epidemiology at Columbia University in New York.

Head injury and the gene, APO-E4, had each been linked separately to Alzheimer's risk in prior studies. Dr. Mayeux and colleagues published the new results in this month's

issue of the journal *Neurology*.

"It's actually a very important paper" because it sheds light on how head injury promotes Alzheimer's, said Dr. James Mortimer, associate director of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Walter Kukull, an epidemiologist at the University of Washington in Seattle who is studying Alzheimer's, cautioned

that the conclusions must be considered tentative because relatively few study participants had a head injury plus the gene. But the idea that APO-E4 could team up with a head injury to raise the risk of Alzheimer's is plausible, he said.

Although head injury would account for only a small fraction of Alzheimer's cases, the new research is valuable for its insight into how genes and environment might work together to produce the

disease, he said.

The study included 113 Alzheimer's patients and 123 healthy elderly people who were matched to the patients by age, gender and ethnic group. Spouses or other relatives of patients were asked if the patients had been knocked unconscious more than two years before the disease began. The healthy people were asked if they had been similarly hurt at least two years before the interview.

The study found:

— Compared with people with neither the gene nor a history of head injury, participants who had only the gene ran twice the risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

The 15 participants who had the injury but not the gene showed no increase in risk.

— The eight participants who had the injury plus the gene ran a 10-fold risk.

Dr. Mayeux said the reason might involve the brain's reaction to serious

head blows. Prior research found that in about one-third of people who die shortly after a severe head injury, the brain shows deposits of a substance called Beta Amyloid. These deposits apparently come in response to the injury, Dr. Mayeux said.

Beta Amyloid deposits also appear in brains of Alzheimer's patients, although scientists are still debating whether they cause the disease.

The APO-E4 gene tells

the body how to make protein that binds tightly to Beta Amyloid. This binding may encourage Beta Amyloid deposits to form after a head injury, which in turn promotes Alzheimer's, Dr. Mayeux said.

He cited a recent British study of people who die soon after head injury. The APO-E4 gene showed up about 10 times as often in victims with amyloid deposits in victims without deposits.

Chemical mimics bone, helps heal fractures quickly

By Paul Reecer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A chemical compound that looks like toothpaste but hardens into artificial bone within hours is streamlining the treatment of fractured limbs and offers new hope for aged, fragile bones.

The compound, now in experimental trials at 12 American hospitals, is used to hold splintered bones in place, to fill voids

caused by osteoporosis and to replace some of the metal plates and screws that have been used to repair shattered hips, wrists and ankles.

"The material acts as an internal cement by holding the fragments in place," said Dr. Jesse B. Jupiter, a hand surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "It is really very dramatic."

A study published recently in the journal *Sci-*

ence found the compound is virtually identical to natural bone crystals. Once it is placed in the body, the material hardens within 10 minutes and reaches the compression strength of natural bone within 12 hours.

Within weeks, the study showed, the cement is replaced by real bone.

Because it so closely resembles bone, researchers said, the body does not reject the cement and react as it does to most

foreign substances.

Clinical trials in several American hospitals and in Holland, where the compound is in regular use, show the material has allowed patients to discard casts early — or altogether — and to resume walking more quickly and with less pain.

Brent R. Constantz, co-author of the study and president of Norian Corp. of Cupertino, California, which developed the

material, said orthopedic surgeons in Holland now use the cement to repair fractures of the wrist, hip, and leg and for total joint replacement. The cement also has been used to fill spinal voids caused by osteoporosis, a disorder that embrittles natural bone.

Traditional treatment often requires an open incision, fitting the bones back together with screws, and then keeping the patient in a cast for six

weeks. Even after the cast comes off, patients may have to spend months in rehabilitation.

In clinical studies using the cement, Jupiter said, he has been able to treat such fractures without an incision. Guided by X-Ray, the bones are fitted together and then cement is injected through the skin and into the fracture area. The material hardens within 10 minutes, holding the bones

together.

The doctor said broken hips that were almost impossible to correct among some older patients in the past are now yielding to the use of the cement.

Constantz, co-developer of the cement, said if the studies go well in the United States, his company should receive Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to sell the cement in late 1997. The FDA has already approved ex-

perimental use of the cement, based, in part, on studies in Holland.

The cement costs \$75 to \$1,000 per application, but it reduces hospital stays by half, thus saving millions of dollars in medical care costs, said Constantz.

Science, which published the study, is the peer-reviewed journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hope for HIV babies as boy 'loses' virus

By Celia Hall

A BABY in America tested HIV positive after birth but found to be clear of the virus a year later may provide proof that babies born to HIV mothers can rid themselves of the virus.

The boy, now five and still HIV negative, is not the first case to show this phenomenon, but his case is the best documented. Others have been dismissed as laboratory mistakes.

The researchers from the UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, says in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that

their results indicate that HIV clearance can happen and may have been under-recognized.

Dr. Marie-Louise Newell, coordinator of the European collaborative study of children born to HIV mothers, which is currently monitoring 1,800 cases, said: "This might help in pointing the way for vaccine research or confirm that research is moving in the right direction."

"What needs to happen now is investigation of the child's immune system to see if anything can be found to explain what happened."

"There have been a

number of cases like this in children from Europe but people have been a bit sceptical of the results. A great deal of work was done on this case and it is nicely documented, reliable data."

Dr. Newell, an epidemiologist at the Institute of Child Health, in London, pointed out that levels of the virus in the baby had been very low.

The boy's mother was tested positive for HIV during pregnancy. The baby was found to have the virus when he was tested 19 days after birth and again at 51 days old. At a year-old, he had a routine test and was found

to be negative. Numerous, sophisticated tests since to find the virus have failed. Reports exist of virus resistance in adults. A group of Gambian prostitutes have remained uninfected despite long exposure to HIV and sexual partners of known HIV cases have also remained clear.

The American findings raise more questions than they answer. The researchers say it is still possible that the boy has a "hidden" virus which could reemerge at a later date.

In an accompanying commentary in the journal, Dr. Kenneth McIntosh, of Boston Children's Hospital, says the findings are

bard to explain.

He says: "Does this mean that in a proportion of infants HIV in some form enters the foetus or the newborn and is then cleared?"

He said it would be surprising if it was found that there was an effective immunological response in babies as the immune systems in newborns are considered to be immature.

Dr. McIntosh says that in the light of the new case it seems that previous, less well studied cases which had been dis-

missed perhaps "were not errors, at least not all of them."

Gaz Daly, spokesman for the charity AIDS Care Education and Training, said: "Obviously it is very good to bear this news, but one has to treat it with caution. The difficulty here is that many people who have HIV and want children may be tempted to go ahead."

"They must accept that a baby could be infected and that they only have five or six years to live," — *The Independent*.

Scientists identify gene responsible for kidney disease

By Lori Valigra
Reuters

FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts — Researchers say they have fully identified the composition of a gene that causes a common inherited kidney disease, opening the door for the development of new genetic diagnostic tests and possible treatments.

The find makes it possible eventually to treat the causes of the disease, rather than only its symptoms, said Katherine Klinger, vice president of science at IG Laboratories Inc. in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Dr. Klinger, principal investigator for the sequencing study, and her colleagues at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution in Maryland and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico identified the sequence for the PKD1 gene that causes autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in more than 500,000 American adults.

The disease, which can be inherited from either parent, affects about one in 1,000 people. Each child of an affected adult has a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the gene causing the disease. Though damage to the body begins as a child, the symptoms generally are not visible until age 40 or older.

Dr. Klinger said about 10 per cent of Westerners undergoing kidney dialysis or renal transplants have the disease. So far treatments have focused on treating complications of the disorder rather than the disorder itself.

"One of the frustrations of those of us who care for individuals with polycystic kidney disease is the lack of therapies effective in preventing renal failure," Dr. Gregory Gerschlager, a principal investigator of the project for Johns Hopkins, said in a statement.

People with the disease can develop cysts in the kidneys, liver, pancreas and spleen, weakened heart valves, brain aneurysms, hernias and intestinal problems. The cysts cause enlargement of the kidneys and cause kidney failure.

Every human has two copies of the PKD1 gene. The gene becomes harmful when it mutates. Genetic predestination

The findings by the team of scientists will be presented Friday at a 1995 renal cystic disease workshop in Bethesda published in the April issue of the journal *Human Molecular Genetics*.

British scientists in June identified PKD1 the gene that causes polycystic kidney disease. They did not fully sequence the gene.

Morning-after pills are available, but few women know of them

By Steve Sakson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Morning-after pills are a safe, effective and legal way to end a pregnancy but most doctors don't suggest using them and few women know how they work, according to two new surveys.

A group of U.S. doctors, public health officials and family planning workers are seeking to change that.

They have written a book, *Emergency Contraception: The Nation's Best Kept Secret*, that includes a list of 1,477 doctors willing to prescribe the pills. The list has also been posted on the Internet, the worldwide network of computer systems.

Morning-after pills are high dosages of regular birth control pills which interrupt the implantation of a fertilized egg into the wall of a woman's uterus — the point that many doctors consider the start of a pregnancy.

Nausea and vomiting are common side effects. The method is distinct from RU-486, the French-made drug that actually induces abortions, and is not available in the United States.

Advocates say the pills work 75 per cent of the time, and note that the pills can be taken up to 72 hours after sex — not just the morning after.

Although doctors are free to prescribe birth control pills in such a regimen, drug companies have

never sought permission from the government to market contraceptives for this use, largely because of the sensitivity of the abortion issue.

In a survey of 270 sexually active women who didn't want to become pregnant, 60 per cent had heard of the pills but only 20 per cent knew they can be taken up to three days after sex.

A total of 47 per cent said they would be likely to use the pill if necessary to prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

In a separate poll of 300 obstetrician-gynecologists, nearly all were familiar with the procedure. Some 88 per cent called it safe and 85 per cent called it effective.

Some 56 per cent objected to abortion and would never perform one, but of that number, 84 per cent didn't have the same objections about the morning-after pills.

Still, nearly all the doctors polled said they rarely suggest the procedure to their patients, and if they do, it's usually when a regular method of birth control either failed or wasn't used. The doctor survey has a margin of error of 5.7 per cent.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration spokesman Lawrence Bachorik said the agency would be receptive to any drug company that sought permission to market a regimen of morning-after pills, but none has tried.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THE GOOD EARTH
By Frances Burton

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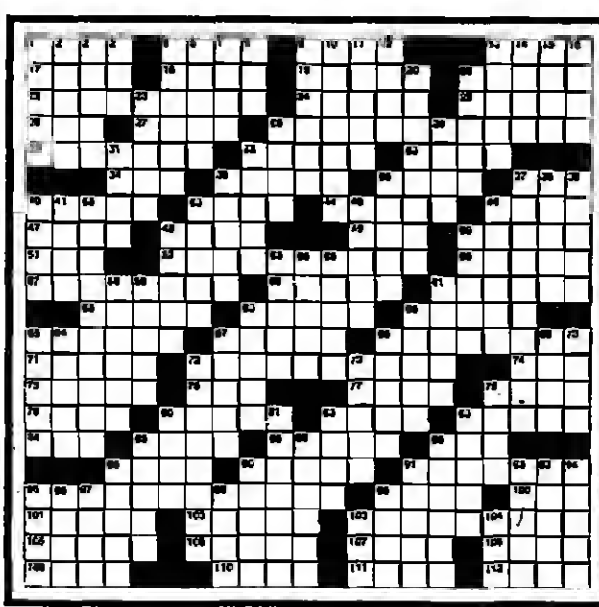
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Diagramless 21 x 21
By Roger Coburn

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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Last Week's Cryptograms
1. One last bite, and the big glutton popped his top button!
2. Why do my supermarket prices go up, but what I buy in the stock market goes down?
3. When "CD" is mentioned, chemist thinks cadmium, his dad sees stocks and bonds, but his son knows it's music!
4. Landscape architect hopes to receive funds from venture capital firm.

CRYPTOGRAMS
1. CNBJ OCA BWDB KQWWS BOLBR WLWWS
WQSNHR CNER WDDY. KJAWAJER KDWKJT.
KODES BRTNAAS. — By Earl Ireland

2. BX URP TWA NZBY MBYI RKEFPN FYVE
WAG MWBI. ZWUVY URP GRAYK
WDDYTBWY KEY OFRVIY. — By Duane H. McGee

3. NXX PFDT LOAN HG CEECH NX UFGT
UOXUCO. DXPUHOG IRL XY DEXRNS
HRNX AIREYFUND. — By Ed Huddleston

4. ILDO NHAMOE NOLNPO GORPASEO
ZUGOEDOUER CR CHOSNEY SUN MONEY
SUBPRIZ. — By Frank N. Stein

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- The Liffey
- Isaritsyn (until 1925), on the Volga, renamed to commemorate its defence by Stalin in 1917 against the White Russians. Stalin died in 1953 and in 1962 the name was changed to Volgograd.
- Alexandrine
- Wild cherries
- An ancient Herald's Wand carried by a Greek-Roman herald. Also the fabled wand was carried by Hermes or Mercury as the messenger of gods, usually represented with two serpents twined round it.

★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

As many shoes as there are inhabitants in the city. The one-legged group require one shoe each, one-half of the remainder of the population is barefoot, that is equivalent to all the remainder population wearing one shoe apiece. The percentage of the one-legged might, of course, be any other than the five stated in the problematic puzzle; the answer must always be the same.

Sabatini wins in Florida

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini, beaten last week by a player ranked 88th in the world, regrouped Tuesday against Argentine compatriot Maria Jose Gaidano with a 6-0, 6-0 out in the Bausch and Lomb Championships.

Sabatini, who has played in six of the last seven Bausch and Lomb finals, fought off three double faults to win the opening game of her first match.

She then rolled to the easy victory in 59 minutes — her first career match against Gaidano, who is ranked No. 30 on the WTA Tour.

Sabatini, seeded second and ranked No. 7 in the world, fought back from three 40-15 deficits to keep Gaidano from winning a point.

"It feels good to have a match like that," said Sabatini, who lost to Lea Ghirardi of France last week in the first round of the Family Circle Magazine Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. "I think I played very good tennis."

Sabatini said she felt Gaidano was a bit awed at the match.

"Probably, I think that made a difference," she said.



World No. 7 Gabriela Sabatini

"She's never played against me and I'm from the same home. I was expecting her to be a little nervous. But she tried her best. She made a lot of errors."

Sabatini's third-round match will be against another Argentine, Bettina Fulco-Vilella, who upset 10th-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-1, 6-4, Tuesday. And Sabatini could face yet another Argentine, No. 6 seed Ines Gorroategui, in the quarterfinals.

Cecchini was one of four seeds to lose Tuesday. The most prominent upset was No. 4 seed Judith Wiesner of Austria, who lost 7-6, 6-4 to Katarzyna Nowak of Poland.

Other seeded players beaten were No. 11 Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, who lost 6-1, 6-2 to Silvia Farina to Italy, and No. 14 Larisa Neiland of Latvia, who retired with a sprained ankle while trailing Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain 6-2, 2-0.

The only seeds to win beside Sabatini were No. 9 Irina Spirlea of Romania, who stopped Sarah Pitkowski of France, 7-6, 6-4; Gorroategui, who rallied past Tami Whitlinger-Jones of the United States, 6-3, 0-6, 6-3; and No. 15 Chanda Rubin of the United States, who beat Adriana Serra-Zanetti of Italy 6-2, 6-1.

Juventus stunned by Borussia Dortmund while Parma win at Leverkusen

PARIS (AFP) — An all Italian UEFA Cup final between league leaders Juventus and second placed Parma took a severe knock when Borussia Dortmund stunned Juventus in Milan with a 2-2 draw in their semi-final first-leg match Tuesday night.

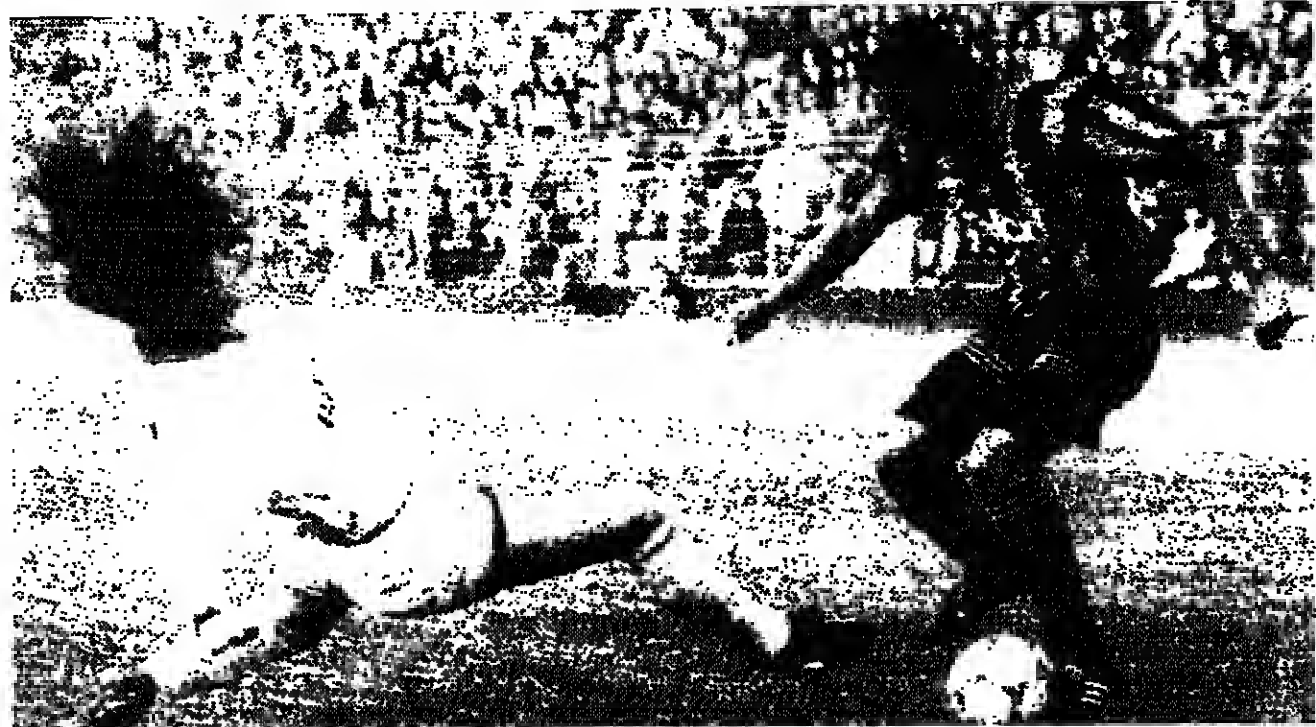
The Germans twice took the lead in a bad tempered match and it was only a goal three minutes from time from Juventus' German defender Jurgen Kohler that allowed the Italians a draw.

Borussia went one up when midfielder Stefan Reuter opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Although Juventus pulled level thanks to a Roberto Baggio penalty in the 28th minute, his first attempt at a spot kick since his dramatic miss for Italy in the World Cup final against Brazil, Borussia went back in front in the 70th minute through their ex Italian league player Andreas Moller.

Moller took advantage of the space being left by the pushing Juventus defence to unleash a blistering 30-yard shot that Angelo Peruzzi had no chance of stopping.

It was a match where neither side was prepared to take any prisoners. Dortmund had five bookings, including Karlheinz Riedle and Matthias Sammer who will now miss the return leg in a fortnight's time because of previous bookings.

Juventus' Moreno Torricelli will also miss the next match after getting his mar-



Fernando Couto of Parma stretches for the ball as he attacks Leverkusen's Paulo Sergio (right) during their first leg semi-final UEFA Cup match. Parma won 2-1 (AFP photo)

ching orders when he collected his second yellow card of the game in the dying seconds.

But if the result was a blow to the Italian side their decision to play in AC Milan's San Siro stadium proved to be the financial success they had hoped for.

Club officials, fed up by low attendances in Turin for UEFA Cup matches, decided more people in Milan would

turn out to cheer them on. They were correct — 80,000 fans packed the stadium.

But if Juventus were struggling their league rivals Parma were overcoming Bayern Leverkusen in Germany after falling behind halfway through the first half.

Leverkusen, boosted by the return of Bernd Schuster, took the lead in the 20th minute through a goal by

Brazilian Paulo Sergio who half-volleyed home a corner.

But a five minute spell early in the second half saw Parma, despite missing defender Luigi Appollini and suspended striker Marco Branca, snatch two goals to give Bayer Leverkusen a mountain to climb in the second leg.

The Italian's first goal came when German defender Marcus Happe failed to pick

up Dino Baggio in the 48th minute. The Italian World Cup star made no mistake to level the score.

Five minutes later Faustino Asprilla collected a pass from defender Alberto Di Chiara and hammered it past goalkeeper Rudiger Vollborn.

It was a perfect return for Asprilla who had been suspended for Parma's quarter-final meeting with Denmark's Odense.

Depleted Chelsea face Real test

LONDON (AFP) — Chelsea are out to Spain for Thursday's first leg of the Cup semi-final against Real Zaragoza with a depleted squad.

Skipper Wise, currently on sick leave following his conviction for assault and criminal damage, has missed seven matches with a torn thigh muscle suffered in the quarter-final first leg in Wales.

Newton, out for four weeks with a hamstring problem, also sat out the return against the Belgians which saw Chelsea clinch a 2-1 aggregate win, thanks to goals from Marko Stein and Paul Furlong in the 2-0 second leg victory at Stamford Bridge.

The unavailability of two of his English-born players is a blow for Hoddle but the Chelsea manager was given a boost when Gavin Peacock secured himself fit after injury.

Hoddle said of Wise and Newton: "Their absence means my options for team selection are reduced."

But Hoddle now looks

likely to start with Kevin

Peacock in goal rather than

calling Russian Dmitri

Kharine, allowing the use of more "foreign" outfield players to accommodate UEFA's selection guidelines.

The Chelsea manager has also ordered his players to keep their cool in Thursday's match against opponents, who have gained a reputation for intimidation and rough play, with 10 players dismissed this season.

The West London club are also confident they will avoid the damaging scenes of mass arrests and deportations which marred their trip to Bruges.

Hundreds of their followers were prevented entry into Belgium and others were kicked out of the country before the game against Bruges.

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SAN DIEGO (AP) — A basic tenet of America's Cup competition is that whoever holds the trophy can change the rules.

There was supposed to be a knockout race Tuesday between Dennis Conner and America3's mostly women's team. But both crews were still alive after the race because the three defence syndicates agreed not long before race time that everyone would get into the final.

America3's Mighty Mary

won by 5 minutes, 59

seconds. The 15 women and

one man did not know the

deal had been cut and celebrated as if they had eliminated Conner. Actually all they accomplished was to win one bonus point for the final.

The three defence syndicates, with the blessing of the San Diego Yacht Club's defence committee, made the

change because they felt the controversy over Conner's mid-round change of a damaged keel had affected the competition.

"The San Diego Yacht Club can agree to do it in a different way than they started out," said Chuck Nichols, president of America's Cup '95.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD
Announces The Invitation To Tender No. 20F/95
JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 20F/95 insurance of fertiliser industrial complex in Aqaba against fire and allied perils.
The tender documents are available at JPMC office in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday April 13th, 1995, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (60) for each set of tender documents.
The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Monday, April 17th, 1995.
Sameh Madani
Managing Director

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Khazafiyat
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April 14 - 16
(ceramic & pottery show)

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If found please contact the South African Embassy, nearest police station or Tel. 788516

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VOLVO 240 station wagon - CD plate. 34000 kms - model 1991 - many options ordinary gear - excellent condition. JD 6500 (negotiable).
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THE EMBASSY OF ITALY ANNOUNCES
The starting of Italian Classes, all levels on 15 April 1995, at "COLLEGIUM TERRAE SANCTAE" in Jabal Lweibdeh on Saturday, Monday, Wednesday from 4 to 5.30 and from 6 to 7.30 p.m.
Fees: 60 J.Ds. (30 lessons - 45 hours)
Registration at the Italian Embassy, tel. 638185, Language Department every day (close Friday-Saturday) from 9 to 13.00 up to April 13.

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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAM THEATRE	
Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Jala Fahmi, Kamal Shinnawi Najah Al Mawji ... In TATA WARIKA AND MR. KATHEM shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damme STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawagfa daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Halla Al Agha in the children's play — Sadi's Return —		Shows of "Qirbeh Makhzouqa" will be stopped from now until further notice.		Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sunday.	

مكتبة لأمم

Economy

European Investment Bank widens role in Arab World

By Saleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — The European Investment Bank (EIB) could direct nearly 1 billion ECU (\$1.3 billion) a year to North Africa and the Levant from 1996 as part of a wider European role, a senior bank official said Tuesday.

"The European Commission has proposed involvement of the EIB of some order and magnitude which would mean a little less than

one billion European Currency Units (ECU) investments per year," Ariane Obolensky, vice president of the European Investment Bank, told Reuters.

The official said the EIB commitment was under discussion by the European Union (EU), which sets EIB priorities, with the Mediterranean region now "one of its priority areas."

EU sources said a decision was expected by mid-1995. The region takes in North

Africa and Israel, Syria and Jordan in the Middle East.

Ms. Obolensky said the EU intended "to strengthen and broaden the content and means of cooperation" in a Mediterranean policy to be set in the next few months.

The official, who was finishing a visit to Palestinian self-rule areas and Jordan, said the EU hoped the EIB would raise 1995 commitments to the region above the 600 million ECUs (\$780 million) in 1994. Assistance was

800 million ECUs (\$1 billion) in 1993.

"We hope to do better in 1995. I think we could go back easily to the figures of 1993 and perhaps a little bit higher," she said.

The EIB, in its first direct support for Middle East peace, has committed 250 million ECUs (\$325 million) in the Palestinian Gaza self-rule area and the West Bank to cover the next four years, she added.

It has not disbursed funds,

waiting for the Palestinian Authority to detail infrastructure projects that include Gaza port and a power plant the EIB agreed in principle to finance.

"We hope we will soon be in a position to lead that money and I am more optimistic now that I have seen some opportunities...I have great hopes that the projects will come soon," she said.

The official said 25 million ECUs (\$32.5 million) for "financial intermediaries" to

relend to small and medium-sized firms was the "quickest way to disburse at least the first tranche of the 250 million ECUs until feasibility studies for bigger projects were completed."

The EIB was negotiating with two banks in the Gaza self-rule area and the West Bank on the project, which the official said she hoped would begin by the summer. She would not name the banks but banking sources said Arab Bank was involved.

'Yes' to computer chips, 'no' to potato chips

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's main opposition party pledged to review the participation of multinational companies in the consumer goods sector if it comes to power in general elections next year. Murli Manohar Joshi, a leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), said Hindu revivalist party supported foreign investment in technology and infrastructure but not in the consumer goods sector. "Computer chips, yes, potato chips, no," he told a gathering of some 100 senior BJP leaders in the western state of Goa.

Mr. Joshi, a former BJP president, was speaking at a meeting of the party's executive committee on economy at the Goa meeting by BJP leaders.

The resolution described the economic reforms of Congress (I) government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as "distorted" and said BJP administration would place greater emphasis on self-reliance. Mr. Joshi said if the BJP came to power in parliamentary elections due by May of next year, foreign investment in the consumer goods and small scale industries sector would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. He said the decision in each case would be based on "merit."

Prospects for Middle East development bank dim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A meeting of the world's biggest development bank switched gears Wednesday to consider creating a similar Middle Eastern bank, but prospects were dim.

A seminar on the U.S.-backed proposal was held during the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in occupied Jerusalem but Israelis and Palestinians raised many objections.

"The case for the Middle East development bank is a strong one," said U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers. "Parties in conflict here do not yet have a rich fabric of institutions that unite them."

The U.S. government decided to back the creation of a Middle East bank after a delegation of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian officials met U.S. officials last year.

"It was the first time a delegation representing those four entities had come together with a common objective," Mr. Summers said. "That was what led the United States to support such a bank."

The bank is the dream of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who believes prosperity is key to regional stability.

Yet nearly six months after leading officials from the Middle East backed the idea at a conference in Casablanca, little has been done to get it off the ground.

"We are working too much on institutions and not dealing with the basic problems," said Amin Haddad, deputy chief executive officer of the private Palestine Development and Investment Ltd. "I think if each of the

participants does not see the added value of having such a bank, the bank will fail," he said.

He said Palestinians do not yet have banking regulations or the legal framework to truly benefit from a regional bank.

Hisham Awartani, head of the economics department at An Najah University in Nablus, said he feared such a bank would foster further Palestinian dependence on handouts.

Israelis also expressed doubts that a big regional

bank was the way to go.

"We don't need institutions that are political talk shops. We need more grassroots work," said markets analyst Pinchas Landau.

Palestinians say the prospects for a regional bank have grown bleaker in recent months.

Israeli-Palestinian relations have been severely strained by a series of attacks in Israel carried out by Muslim extremists and subsequent Israeli bans on Palestinian workers and goods.

Mr. Awartani said Palestinian unemployment has risen

and living standards have declined since the signing of the declaration of principles peace agreement in September 1993.

Though some countries such as Saudi Arabia have opposed creating a regional bank, proponents had hoped to formally approve the bank at another conference in Amman in October.

This, too, is increasingly doubtful.

"The way things are going I don't even know if the conference in Amman will take place," Mr. Haddad said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you want to have a better relationship with those you want as partners, it is best not to be self-opinionated.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put more effort into your tasks today and you can get rid of some flaw in them so that you can get the right benefits.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Any small risks you take today could turn out successfully provided by express yourself well to those who are in authority.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is an ideal day to get your home in fine shape for those who visit, your marketing completed and make your family feeling happy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Check and recheck any statements or reports and make sure they are accurate. Make certain to telephone before dropping in on others.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go over your accounts today and get them in order so that you can collect or pay, as the case may be, very soon.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study what you most desire for tonight and see how it best to gain your aims and desires. Get out today and visit with friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you do something really nice for the one you love you can get excellent response. Apply yourself seriously to whatever are your tasks.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Contacting your closest friends and discussing your ambitions with them can bring fine results today for your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Good will means much to you today so expand your efforts in such direction and have fine credit by those who are in charge.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Missives from afar can be a little confusing to you but can assist you to advance today if you study them well.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your intuition is basically sound but couple it today with good judgment. Your mate's strange behaviour becomes clarified tonight.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 7, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get something at which you are skilled completed early today, and then make certain you solve those problems with outsiders.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan some time to build up your energies through exercise. If you want to participate in recreation today, make sure it is not too costly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some thoughtful act to prove your devotion to your mate is wise this morning. Conditions may be tense later tonight if you allow.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should enjoy early today your abode since later situations tonight may arise which will require strength, care and caution.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Mediating early today can be most helpful to you and tonight you can gain many benefits from this. It is important that you exercise care while on the road.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Any financial discussion should be handled during the daytime today since later tonight, practical affairs could bring tension.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have the right answers to problems this morning, but later today your vision is, somewhat blurred to what really occurs and you could make mistakes.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a plan in mind today which will not bring you much success, so forget about the idea for the time being and latch on to something better tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Although you want to go out socially with some good friends, it is best that you handle some personal affairs which are important for your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You should avoid higher-ups today since they are not in a very favourable mood. This is day to be wise, careful and safe in whatever are your activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to take any trips of any kind with your mate, even if they are short since there will be positive results for you both. Don't let anyone impose on your pleasure today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to study in written material and rid yourself of stumbling blocks which stand in the way of your success and achieving great progress.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

EBRD polishes its image rather than the marble

LONDON (R) — The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), damned in its early years for profligacy, is gearing up to ask for more money, this time to spend on member countries rather than glittering headquarters.

Set up five years ago to help Eastern Europe make the transition to Western-style free markets, the EBRD has been struggling to shake off the legacy of its first president Jacques Attali who lavished millions on its London base.

Now, nearly two years after Mr. Attali's resignation, the EBRD wants to lay the groundwork at this week's annual meeting for an increase in its \$13.2 billion capital base.

"But analysts say that Mr. Attali's replacement, former

French central bank governor Jacques de Larosiere, will face an uphill struggle convincing shareholder nations that the time is ripe.

"The key issue at this meeting will be the capital base," the EBRD's director for Austria, Heiner Luschni said. "But maybe it's not the best timing. I can't imagine that a country like the United States will easily agree to a capital increase."

The EBRD was born at the end of the cold war, a grand gesture by Western leaders who wanted a multilateral bank to finance the reconstruction of eastern Europe. It now has 59 shareholder countries and institutions from East and West.

Its first years were, however, dogged by controversy as Mr. Attali, formerly a top aide to French President

Francois Mitterrand, spent freely on executive jets and fitted out the EBRD's headquarters with Italian marble.

After an outcry, Mr. Attali resigned in disgrace. Mr. De Larosiere was drafted in by Western shareholders to cut costs.

He embarked on a mission to turn the EBRD into a more solid, if less glamorous, institution and a more effective hacker of the burgeoning private sector in eastern Europe.

The 370 government officials and 2,600 bankers due to attend this year's annual meeting from April 8-11 will deliver their verdict on Mr. De Larosiere's austere regime and have a first chance to discuss plans for a capital increase.

The EBRD wants to lay the ground work, arguing it

needs more capital if it is to play a full role in helping former communist Europe alongside the two prime multilateral institutions — the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

So far about 60 per cent of the EBRD's capital base has been committed and directors such as Mr. Luschni say it is too small.

"If we'd like to achieve more, it needs more money," he said.

But Mr. De Larosiere knows that he has to prove that costs are under control if he is to convince Western government shareholders such as the United States, Britain and Germany to increase the capital base.

Rumours of more cost cuts

spread in recent weeks. There is even talk the EBRD will quit its headquarters and it has already rented out some space to a Japanese bank.

Chief economist Nick Stern would not comment directly on the rumours but told Reuters that the EBRD, like any business, was always looking around for cost savings which included checking the property market.

Hints from Germany that the bank should move to Bonn look unlikely to find favour.

But the annual meeting is likely to examine closely the costs of the EBRD's 23-strong board of directors — a cumbersome apparatus which consumes 12 per cent of \$22 million of the bank's annual budget of \$185 million.

Japanese companies flee from the yen

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese companies highlighted the damage being done to the economy by the rise of the yen by announcing plans to move production abroad and planning for an exchange rate of 85 to the dollar, on Wednesday.

Major electronics company Toshiba Corp. said it would boost its procurement of parts and materials from abroad to cope with the rapid appreciation of the yen.

The company said it would buy materials worth 360 billion yen (\$4 billion) from abroad, and particularly from Asia, from next year. This would be an increase from 310 billion yen.

The Shimadzu Corp. said it would begin producing measuring instruments in Australia, with components procured from Singapore and other Asian countries, in an attempt to cut its production costs by 20 per cent.

And videogame maker Nintendo said Wednesday that it would hike the bullet and set its internal exchange rate at 85 yen, as well as cutting its export ratio from 37 per cent to 30 per cent.

L. America told to tighten belt to face Mexico crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Latin America must tighten its belt further to deal with the financial crisis sparked by Mexico but a better response is needed to counter the damage from international capital outflow, officials told a bank meeting.

The annual Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) meeting, which opened in occupied Jerusalem Tuesday, is being dominated by fallout of the

Mexico shock and its implications for recovery in the rest of the region.

Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz, at the center of the storm, told international bankers and officials from the IADB's 46 member countries the worst of the crisis was over.

"I think it is fair to say we have left the worst of our payments crisis behind and I am sure when investors evaluate the situation, confidence will return," he said in an address as outgoing chairman of the IADB governors.

The Mexican experience has produced an intense debate at the IADB meeting here among bankers and officials over the dangers of volatile capital flows, dollar weakness and the impact of rising world interest rates, all of which have hit the region.

IADB President Enrique Iglesias, opening the meeting, said the region has no

alternative but to continue reforms if it is to resist the pressures of global markets.

"There is no alternative to good house-keeping," he said, adding Latin America must adapt to the global markets and that short-term speculative movements are not an argument against economic liberalisation policies.

But he also warned that Latin American economies, which are opening up to world markets in reverse of

their closed market approach in the debt crisis of the 1980s, must recognise the risks and adapt to the growing volatility in financial markets.

"Growing globalisation can continue to be a very positive force for economic development, but it can also become exposed to powerful speculative movements of capital," he said.

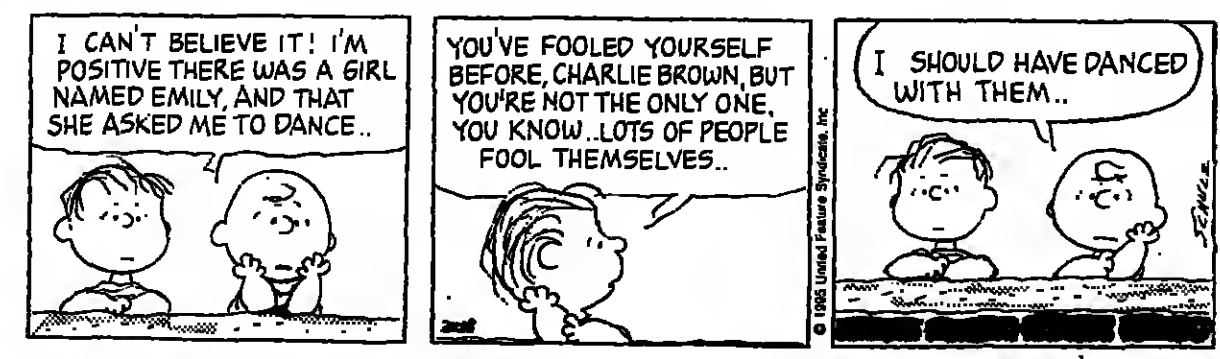
But he gave no details to the meeting of a vital \$50 billion rescue package.

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Peanuts



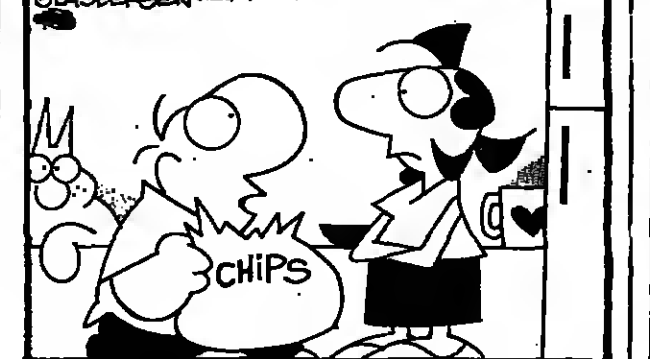
Andy Capp



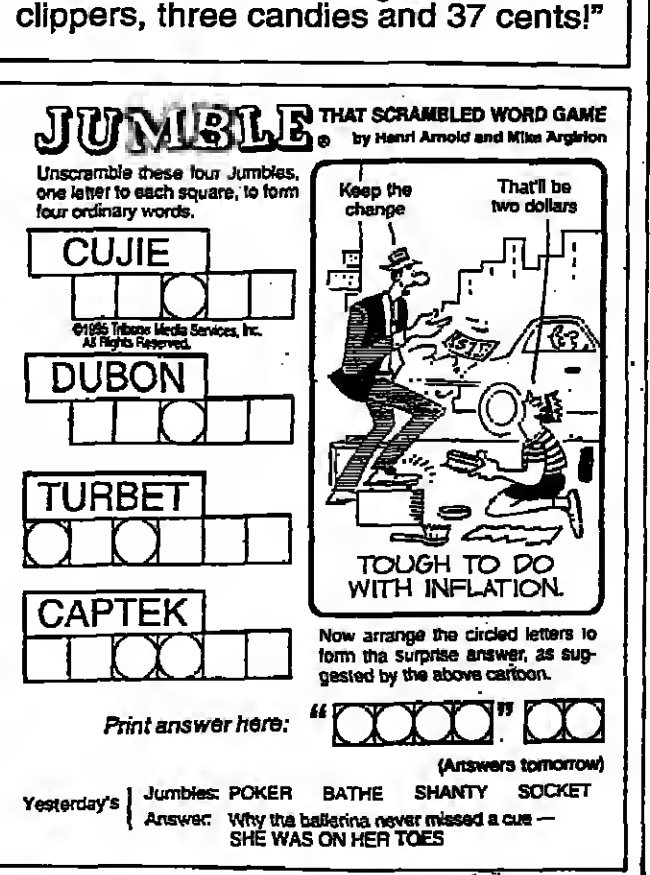
Mutt'n'Jeff



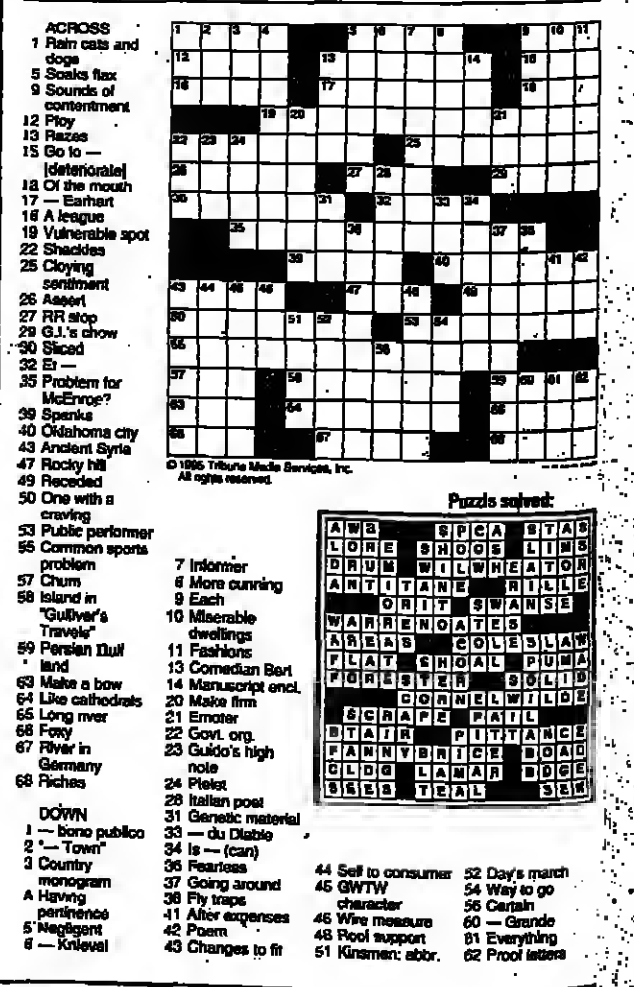
THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Egyptian businessmen planning \$1.5 billion petrochemical plant

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian businessmen announced Wednesday plans for a \$1.5 billion petrochemical plant on a site north of the town of Suez.

Negotiations with Japanese and North American companies are moving rapidly towards agreement on partnership arrangements for each of about 15 individual production units, they said.

The companies include Dow Chemical, Dupont Canada, Itochu, Hitachi, Marubeni, Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

"Things are going very fast and we hope to reach the partnership agreements within a few months," Raed Hashim, a private businessman investing in the project, told Reuters.

A holding company for the project, probably to be named Oriental Petrochemicals, has so far received

30,000 tonnes of ethylene glycol.

Mr. Fahmy said the project was one of the outcome of the Middle East economic summit held in Casablanca last year. It was raised again with the Japanese companies when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Japan last month.

"There's been a very good response from the U.S. and Japanese companies and from the Egyptian private sector. So everything is going very quickly," he added.

Dow Chemical originally focused on the ethylene and polyethylene but has since shown interest in the whole complex, he said. Marubeni is interested mainly in the polypropylene.

Dupont Canada is talking about a nylon unit. Mr. Hashim added.

"Most of the production will be for export to South Asia — that's what the partners want — but we are going to set aside a share for our market," said Mr. Fahmy.

The investors have already acquired a 300-acre (120-hectare) site near Suez, which is close to Egypt's main oil-producing area, and they said they could start producing within 36 months of signing partnership and management agreements.

The Egyptian banks taking part are National Bank of Egypt, Commercial International Bank and Export Development Bank of Egypt, with a 20 per cent stake between them.

The holding company will invite public subscriptions to raise about 300 million pounds (\$90 million) of the initial capital, probably within six months," Mr. Hashim said.

Body Shop quits Israel, Copycat wins

LONDON (R) — Environment-friendly cosmetics chain Body Shop loses its trademark in the country — one of 72 where the name is registered around the world — even though Body Shop Cosmetics (BSC) has not denied copying its format back in 1987 in the first place.

"We had two choices: Be tied up in court of years using huge amounts of management time and energy or get out of the market," said Body Shop managing director Stuart Rose.

"Having been entangled in litigation with a business much larger multi-national firm."

It also meant Body Shop loses its trademark in the country — one of 72 where the name is registered around the world — even though Body Shop Cosmetics (BSC) has not denied copying its format back in 1987 in the first place.

The withdrawal ended years of bitter wrangling and highlighted legal loopholes allowing sharp-eyed local entrepreneurs to wrongfoot

which uses our name without permission and which has tried to ruin our reputation with outrageous accusations, there's only one sensible plan of action. We've reluctantly withdrawn," he said.

Body Shop was founded by leading "green" campaigners Anita and Gordon Roddick in 1976.

It opened its first Israeli store in a Tel Aviv shopping mall last November, although use of the name was originally registered in the country in 1983. The shop was summarily closed in December, however, following a court injunction by Israeli entrepreneur Dr. Eli Fischer, who bought BSC in 1993.

The Copycat chain itself started in 1989, a month after the then owners approached the Roddicks over a possible franchise.

It has since used a similar logo. Shop Fascia and packaging and Copied product names, court documents show. In 1987, it also started to revoke Body Shop's original trademark.

Then, Body Shop's business was mainly mail order after a local partner's distribution attempts came to naught — not enough to give it protection, BSC claimed in its unique action.

At the time of buying BSC, Dr. Fischer was in talks with the Roddicks about a franchise, as well as mediation in the dispute.

He has denied duplicity, however, and stands by the action.

"Under Israeli law, the use of a trade mark gives you the right, not the registration," Dr. Fischer told Reuters.

Ben Tarif sees great need for agricultural export firm

AGRICULTURE MINISTER Mansour Ben Tarif urged the private sector to take the initiative to set up public share-holding company to export agricultural products.

The minister said such a company was badly needed to give Jordanian produce a higher competitive edge in European and neighbouring markets by giving export attention to quality, grading and time as well as being able to make contracts with specialised companies.

Noting that such work and responsibility need financial and technical support that can only be shouldered by a public share-holding company, the minister saw a high ability and profitability for such an entity that would give good returns to shareholders, traders, of agricultural materials and farmers alike, (Al Ra'i).

AN EGYPTIAN exhibition is being held at the premises of the Amman International Fair in Marj Al Hamam. The exhibition, which displays products of 40 Egyptian companies, will run until April 9 (Al Aswaq).

THE AMMAN Chamber of Industry will hold a comprehensive fair for Jordanian industries during the period May 16-26, 1995. About 160 local companies and institutions are expected to participate in the fair (Al Ra'i).

ROYAL JORDANIAN staff will be receiving personal allowances ranging between JD 10 and JD 19 as of this month. The decision to pay the allowance was taken in line with the salary increases to government employees. Royal Jordanian employs about 5,500 people (Al Ra'i).

THE SOCIAL Security Corporation amended its regulations for those who voluntarily want to be enlisted for retirement of old age, incapacity or death. Under the new regulations, any person aged 18 or above at any time after leaving a five-year subscription record. In the old regulations, rejoining was restricted to a six-month period following the stoppage of the 5-year subscription period (Al Ra'i).

JORDAN MEDICAL Association (JMA) President Saad Maraga dismissed as totally false reports that he had received a JD 3 million of bribes at the association's retirement and social security fund. He described the reports as fabrications for pure sectoral purposes. Dr. Maraga pointed out that investments in shares yielded a 267,805 profit in 1994 noting that the total profit from share investments during the past four years amounted to JD 3,787,000. He said the JMA retirement fund was land that has risen in value by JD 2 million since it was bought, Dr. Maraga added (Al Ra'i).

THE MINISTER of Education stressed that there will be no amendment to the school notebooks and that the ministry verifies that production cost of notebooks has actually risen as a result of higher prices for paper. The minister, who will meet today or Saturday with manufacturers of notebooks, said the ministry did not provide the manufacturers with any customs documents to prove that paper has been bought at the new (higher) prices and not old ones. He said the ministry will raise the price of school notebooks if the paper price rises, but will not raise the price of school notebooks if the paper price falls (Al Ra'i).

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 4/4/95	Tokyo Close 5/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.0870	1.6878
Deutsche Mark	1.3780	1.3533
Swiss Franc	1.1395	1.1316
French Franc	6.8820	4.8170
Japanese Yen	86.15	86.60
European Currency Unit	1.3245	1.3153

Source: Reuters

Major Foreign Exchange Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.80	6.81	6.50
Sterling Pound	6.06	0.37	6.68	7.14
Deutsche Mark	4.37	0.43	4.50	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.37
French Franc	7.37	7.25	6.87	6.75
Japanese Yen	1.80	1.82	1.50	1.50
European Currency Unit	6.31	6.40	6.46	6.75

Source: Reuters

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870
Sterling Pound	0.4950	0.4975
Swiss Franc	0.6821	0.6851
French Franc	0.1416	0.1425
Japanese Yen	0.7984	0.7994
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	0.4494
Italian Lira	0.0408	0.0408
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Source: Reuters

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Rial	1.8010	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.041145	0.042030
Saudi Rial	0.1825	0.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5178	2.5780
Qatari Riyal	0.1478	0.1482
Egyptian Pound	0.1980	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.7780	1.7820
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.2485	0.2570
Cypriot Pound	1.4625	1.5250

Source: Reuters

London Exchange Rates

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3932/42	Canadian dollar
	1.3696/06	Deutsche marks
	1.5342/52	Dutch guilders
	1.1224/34	Swiss francs
	28.16/20	Belgian francs
	4.7935/85	French francs
	1709.4/4.4	Italian lire
	85.68/78	Japanese yen
	7.3250/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1340/90	Norwegian crowns
	5.4159/09	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6154/64	
One ounce of gold	\$392.80/393.30	

Source: Reuters

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK OFFER AMMAN - SWEIFIYEH				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/04/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	600	117735	195.500	196.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4000	18540	4.610	4.640
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2750	12450	4.500	4.530
BANK OF JORDAN	200	680	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2700	3898	1.450	1.450
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	6200	16519	2.640	2.680
THE HOUSING BANK	42750	267468	6.230	6.270
JORDAN KRAAT BANK	418	1220	2.920	2.920
JORDAN GULF BANK	35750	51536	1.420	1.450
JORDAN ISLAND BANK	10268	40264	3.890	3.920
SWEIFIYEH BANK	10560	71663	6.800	6.840
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4648	17157	3.710	3.720
HEAT RENTAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	750	2361	3.140	3.150
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	72150	90770	1.240	1.250
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2250	9225	4.100	4.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	60550	92610	1.460	1.530
S&P 500	256584	780095	INDEX NUMBER: 125.72	CHANGE: +0.51%
INSURANCE	218	782	INDEX NUMBER: 125.72	CHANGE: +0.51%
JORDAN INSURANCE	218	782	3.250	3.200
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	2000	3700	1.850	1.850
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	50	180	3.600	3.600
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	22150	63134	2.830	2.730
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	1000	4600	4.600	4.600
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	250	650	2.620	2.600
INDUSTRIAL	26669	72965	INDEX NUMBER: 125.72	CHANGE: +0.51%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10875	17670	1.660	1.660
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	3550	5570	1.560	1.560
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	54696	424441	7.390	7.750
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	10532	79532	7.530	7.750
JORDAN NATIONAL SECURITIES	2600	7650	2.940	3.000
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8700	20310	2.270	2.380
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	250	265	1.030	1.060
ARAB TRADING CENTER	5700	3533	6.800	6.800
UNION MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	102339	275446	2.620	2.700
ARAB TRADING FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	11850	36664	3.060	3.360
JORDANIAN EXPANSION INVESTMENT HOLDING	5500	5500	1.380	1.380
SERVICES	214995	875604	INDEX NUMBER: 145.71	CHANGE: +1.60%
ASTAMQUEE COMM. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	300	119	1.370	1.390
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	25075	76959	3.060	3.070
JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES	400	1044	2.750	2.610
JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES / NEW	925	8722	9.400	9.430
THE JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES / AGRICULTURAL	800	2975	3.700	3.700
THE JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES / MINING	13266	113112	8.150	8.560
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURING	20750	85087	4.130	4.090
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURING / NEW	1412	5650	4.000	4.000
THE JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES / MINING	6600	15120	2.270	2.700
SPINNING & WEAVING	1112	2888	2.580	2.600
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURING	1250	4150	3.300	3.300
DAR AL DARA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	550	4370	7.900	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	40500	42468	930	930
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	3150	22390	7.070	7.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	117400	61788	700	690
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	108400	165529	1.490	1.590
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3150	7615	2.310	2.430
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3100	3638	1.190	1.200
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	900	3676	4.000	4.000
ALABAND INDUSTRIES	500	2224	4.250	4.480
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING / JORDAN	15500	10948	690	690
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1150	8405	4.450	4.400
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	11100	20090	1.720	1.810
ARAB TRADING FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	12107	3240	2.240	2.240
UNIVERSAL INVESTMENT	1150	1817	1.590	1.580
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4550	15946	3.520	3.500
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5700	11670	2.040	2.070
INDUSTRIAL	397399	724958	INDEX NUMBER: 121.92	CHANGE: -0.18%
GRAND TOTAL	895647	2453621	INDEX NUMBER: 146.50	CHANGE: +0.38%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	265291			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	327890			

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Amman Soccer Championship kicks off today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While the Jordan Soccer Federation has set the 1995 season kick-off for April 27, eight Premier League soccer teams begin action earlier when the inaugural Amman Soccer Championship kicks off at Al Hussein Youth city's Petra Stadium Thursday.

The competition, organized by the Greater Amman Municipality, is reserved for Premier League teams in Amman and its vicinity. Group 1 includes Faisali, Qadissieh, Russeifa and Baqaa, while group 2 includes Wihdat, Ahli, Jazireh and Sahab.

The top two teams in each group will advance to the semi-finals set for April 20 and 21 before the competition concludes April 23.

The well publicised event is being sponsored by Pepsi who have allocated JD 13,000 for the competition, including a JD 100

prize for "best player" in every match. Jordan Television has also agreed to televise all 15 matches.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi announced that the competition will be an annual one and will "hopefully include teams from neighbouring countries in the future." Profit from the competition will

be divided among competing clubs to cover part of their expenses as the prepare to participate in the 1995 competitions set by the Jordan Soccer Federation.

Last season's Jordan Cup winners Al Faisali are in the mood for competition after recently taking part in the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Cairo, while league

champions Al Wihdat are now currently on a tour of the West Bank where they are scheduled to play five matches against top local teams.

Al Ahli, who have missed a major title for years, will be hoping to score impressive results with new coach Isa Alturk who led the club's teams to the final rounds in the Under-18 and U-20 competitions.

Al Jazireh, a fifth place finisher last year, hope to attain an advanced standing and give the kingdom's champions Al Wihdat and Al Faisali a hard time.

Sahab, back in the Premier League again, are led by Ahmad Abdul Oader and hope to competition will be a good indicator to their preparedness. The same goes for Al Baqaa, last year's second division champs led by striker Riyadh Al Diqis.

Al Qadissieh, who barely avoided relegation in the Premier League last year and newcomers Al Russeifa will have a chance to prove themselves.

Schedule of 1st round

(All matches are at Petra Stadium at 4 p.m.)

Group 1

Al Faisali vs. Baqaa Thur. 6/4
Qadissieh vs. Russeifa Fri. 7/4
Faisali vs. Qadissieh Mon. 10/4
Baqaa vs. Russeifa Tue. 11/4
Faisali vs. Russeifa Fri. 14/4
Baqaa vs. Qadissieh Sat. 15/4

Group 2

Jazireh vs. Ahli Sat. 8/4
Wihdat vs. Sahab Sun. 9/4
Sahab vs. Ahli Wed. 12/4
Wihdat vs. Jazireh Thur. 13/4
Jazireh vs. Sahab Sun. 16/4
Ahli vs. Wihdat Mon. 17/4

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Prosecutor appeals Seles ruling

HAMBURG (AFP) — The case of Monica Seles' attacker Gunther Parhe was reopened here on Wednesday after the prosecution challenged an appeals court decision earlier this week to allow Gunther Parhe to walk free. The prosecution is contesting the judgement which ruled that Parhe's original sentence — a two-year suspended jail term for stabbing the tennis star at the German Open in April two years ago — should stand. The prosecutor had asked for Parhe to be jailed for 33 months after he was originally released in October 1993, but the appeal court accepted he was harmless and had not tried to kill Seles. Seles, who has not played since following the psychological trauma, said she could not understand Monday's ruling and added: "I only want justice. He has ruined my life. The attack ended my career as far as the world's best tennis for which I worked so hard all my life."

2004 bidders face early cut

MONACO (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee will pre-select candidates if it receives too many bids for the 2004 Games, IOC director General Francois Carrard said here Tuesday. "The IOC envisages using the same procedure as for the 2002 Winter Games," he added. A short list of four

was drawn up after nine cities bid for the 2002 Winter Games and a final decision will be taken at Budapest in June. Carrard said 13 cities had expressed interest in applying for the 2004 Games. Beijing, which lost the 2000 Games to Sydney by just two votes, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, San Juan, Istanbul, Rome, Seville, Stockholm, Osaka, Boston and French cities Lille and Lyon had shown an interest. They have until January to make a formal bid which will be examined by the IOC at its 1997 session in Lausanne.

20 arrested after UCLA win

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Twenty people were arrested after crowds gathered to celebrate the UCLA win over Arkansas in the final of the U.S. national collegiate basketball championship. Police fired a barrage of rubber pellets to contain the thousands of fans who poured into the streets minutes after the Bruins 89-78 win over the defending champions in Seattle. It was the University of California, Los Angeles' first national title in 20 years. "People were just throwing bottles into crowds and one guy turned and got it right in the face and without a doubt lost all of his teeth," said police spokesman Tim McBride.

Blackburn beat QPR to go 8 points clear

LONDON (AFP) — Chris Sutton snatched a goal against the run of play to steer Blackburn to a 1-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road and put them within sight of their first championship for 81 years on Tuesday.

Blackburn seemed happy to settle for a goalless draw until Alan McDonald's 66th-minute blunder gifted Sutton his 22nd goal of the season and sent the champions-elect eight points clear of Manchester United at the top. The Rangers and Northern Ireland captain stumbled as he tried to intercept a Henning Berg throw-in, allowing Sutton to poach the ball and fire his shot across Rangers keeper Tony Roberts.

Until then Rangers had shown much the greater enterprise but Sutton's strike virtually kills off United's lingering hopes of a third consecutive title.

Kenny Dalglish's multi-million pound side can now seal the title with four wins in their last six games. But Blackburn will not win any neutral admirers if they continue to play as they did against Everton on Saturday and as they did again on Tuesday when they frequently withdrew all 11 men behind the ball, relying heavily on the occasional break by Sutton or 34-goal partner Alan Shearer.

Dalglish was unrepentant about Blackburn's workmanlike approach, saying: "We have worked hard to get in this position and we are not going to give it away now. We are going to fight and scrap for everything."

Krabbe sues for half a million dollars

MUNICH (AFP) — Katrin Krabbe asked a court for 800,000 marks (\$570,000) in damages from the German and International Athletic Federations here Wednesday for being suspended from athletics for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The court will make a ruling on May 17.

Krabbe, who was expecting a baby in May, has fought a series of long-drawn-out legal battles to clear her name since 1992.

The 1991 double world sprint champion escaped a four-year ban for irregularities at a random test while training in south Africa in January 1992, on a technicality. But she tested positive for Clenbuterol in July that year.

She had just started training again after deciding to miss the 1992 Barcelona Olympics because of the huge media interest.

However, medical opinion differed over whether Clenbuterol, normally used by asthma-sufferers, should be classed as a stimulant or an anabolic steroid. Stimulant-use carries a one-year ban while the punishment for steroid-use was increased from two to four years in 1991.

The German federation (DFV) ruled a four-year ban could not be upheld in a German court and reduced Krabbe's suspension to one year.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation then ruled she was ineligible for

unsportsmanlike conduct as she had admitted using Clenbuterol. That ban prevented her from running in the 1993 world championships in Stuttgart where the IAAF imposed another two-year ban.

That ban, upheld by an IAAF panel in November, 1993, is due to end on August 23.

Two other former East German runners, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr, who had been suspended along with Krabbe, withdrew their cases.

World 400m record holder Butch Reynolds of the United States was granted 27.3 million dollars in damages after contesting a positive steroid test but the IAAF won its appeal last year.

Top 3 chase place in Nations' Cup finals

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Ghana, Gabon and Burkina Faso seek away wins at the weekend to guarantee them places in the African Nations' Cup finals in South Africa next year.

The legendary Black Stars from Ghana, winners of the biennial event a record four times, defend a 100 per cent record in Group 3 when they visit second-placed Sierra Leone.

While Ghana boast four consecutive triumphs and a 14-4 goal tally, their hosts also lost in Niger, and a third defeat would leave Congo well placed to accompany the Black Stars to Johannesburg.

Congo, recovering after disastrous results in the 1994 World Cup and Nations' Cup qualifiers, visit Gambia, one of six teams without a victory.

Gabon, the only other country with a 100 per cent record at the halfway stage of the mini-league qualifying competition, warmed up for a Group 5 game in Zambia by firing seven goals past Benin.

It promises to be an emotional occasion as Lusaka claimed Gabon hampered investigations into a plane crash off Libreville two years' ago in which most of the Zambian national squad died.

In a group reduced to three teams by withdrawals and the elevation of South Africa to hosts in place of

in preparatory matches, under Brazilian Gilson Nunes, the third coach of the new-look Lions of the Atlas inside six months.

Zimbabwe and Malawi would enhance their chances of qualifying from Group 1, at the expense of seeds Cameroon and Zaire if they can collect two points each.

AFRICAN SOCCER

cash-strapped Kenya, Gabon outclassed Mauritius and shaded Zambia at home.

Burkina Faso were not expected to provide such opposition to traditional giants Morocco and Ivory Coast in withdrawal-ravaged Group 7, but the Eagles visit Casablanca in first place.

The west Africans, whose only finals appearance was two decades ago, upset Morocco 2-1 then forced a draw in Ivory Coast after trailing, by two goals at half-time. Morocco comfortably overcame Senegal and Mali

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper at the centre of match-fixing investigations in England, has been included in the Zimbabwe squad which travels to Lesotho.

Malawi, unbeaten despite having played at home just once in four outings, entertain Zaire, who are trying to reach the finals for the third time in a row.

Egypt, with 10 goals in two home games, should consolidate their Group 4 leadership by defeating Sudan, and Algeria are poised to jump over Tanzania into second place. Algeria host Ethiopia

while Tanzania must improve a dismal away record to avoid defeat by east African neighbours Uganda.

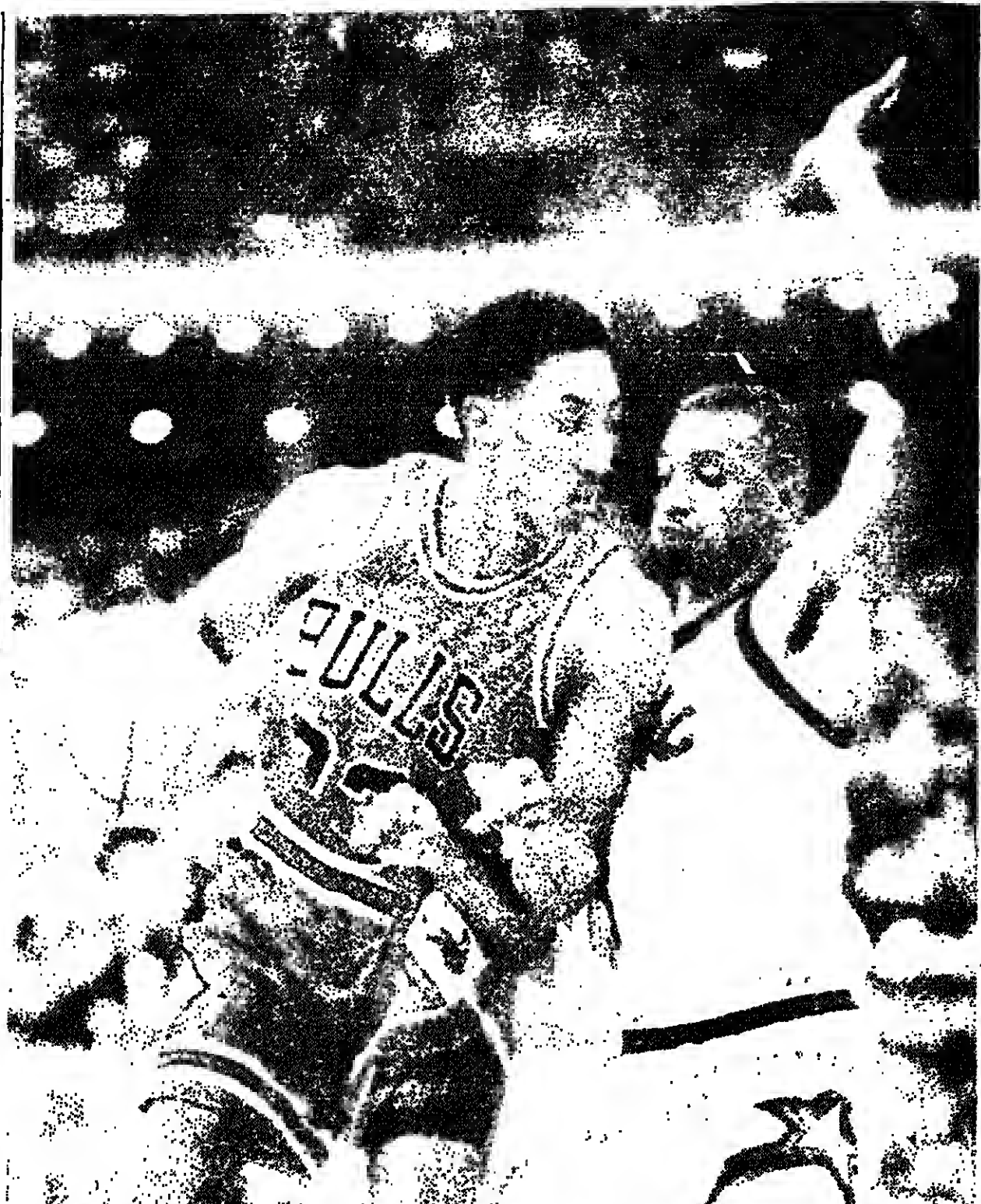
Angola may overtake Mali at the top of Group A6 by winning in Namibia, whose form has slumped since a shock victory over the Malians last October.

Mali, ahead of Angola on goal difference, have a much tougher assignment in Mozambique, who can call on proven goal in Arnaldo Ouana and Nuro Tualibudne.

Guinea, also in contention just one point behind the pacesetters, seem certain of two points at home to Botswana.

Only two points separate the five challengers in Group 2, where Togo host front-runners Liberia and Mauritania entertain second seeds Senegal, who occupy bottom position.

Crack French-based forward George Weah scored the only goal when Togo fell in Monrovia and he will be a major threat again as Liberia chase a first appearance in the leading African tournament.



Chicago Bulls forward Scottie Pippen (left) drives the ball against Orlando Magic guard Anfernee Hardaway during their latest NBA game (AFP photo)

Suns lose to disappointing Warriors

NEW YORK (Agencies) — It simply makes no sense.

How can the Phoenix Suns, in the midst of a furious fight for high positioning in the Western Conference, have so much trouble with the Golden State Warriors, possibly the most disappointing team in the U.S. National Basketball Association this season?

Coach Paul Westphal has no answers. "I would like to find something good about this, but I really can't," Westphal said. "We're just going to have to keep our heads up and come back from this terrible experience. We can't beat the Warriors. We have to face that."

Golden State has won 23 games this season against 49 defeats. But three wins in four meetings have come against Phoenix (51-22). Rookie Donyell Marshall had 28 points and Chris Mullin scored 25, with 13 rebounds and 13 assists. Golden State also held Charles Barkley to nine points on 4-for-15 shooting.

"I'm very disappointed in the way we've played the last month, and there's just no excuse for tonight," Barkley said. "It's a disgrace and it's embarrassing."

Not to Warriors coach Bob Lanier. "I think this was the best game I've seen us play all year," said Lanier, whose team was without suspended star Latrell Sprewell. Of course, Golden State also played without Victor Alexander and Chris Gatling, who were ailing, and already lost All-Star guard Tim Hardaway to season-ending wrist surgery.

Karl Malone scored 31 points and pulled down 17 rebounds as the Utah Jazz halted Seattle's seven-game winning streak with a 114-92 victory over the SuperSonics on Tuesday.

Utah controlled the game from the outset, racing to a 24-8 lead in the first nine minutes. Jeff Hornacek had

nine of his 20 points in the game-opening run. Gary Payton scored 26 points and Shawn Kemp added 15 for Seattle, which was outscored in the first quarter, 37-17.

The Sonics started the second quarter with a 14-6 run to close the gap, but Utah answered with 12 straight points to open a 55-31 bulge.

John Stockton had 11 points and 10 assists while Malone added seven assists for the Jazz.

In New York, Reggie Miller hit a 20-foot jumper with 28 seconds remaining to lift the Indiana Pacers to a 94-90 victory over the Knicks.

Miller scored 28 points and Derrick McKey added 18 for the Pacers, who pulled within half a game of the Knicks in the battle of the second playoff spot in the Eastern Conference and extended their lead to three games over the Hornets in the Central Division.

"This was a monster game," said Indiana coach Larry Brown. "Any time you can win on the road this time of year is very important to your club."

Patrick Ewing finished with 28 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots for New York. John Starks added 20 points, but shot just 2-for-9 from 3-point range.

In Los Angeles, David Robinson scored 27 points and grabbed 18 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their 12th straight win, a 113-89 triumph over the Clippers.

The Spurs put the game away with a 33-7 run, closing the third period with a 16-3

spurt and opening the fourth quarter on a 17-5 burst for a commanding 97-75 lead.

San Antonio is 9-0 since losing the NBA's leading rebounder, Dennis Rodman, to a shoulder separation.

Eric Piatkowski scored 17 points and Lamond Murray added 16 for the Clippers, losers of nine of their last 10 games.

In Cleveland, Sherman Douglas scored 20 of his 24 points in the second half to lead the Boston Celtics to a 97-92 victory over the Cavaliers.

The win was the third in a row for the Celtics, who remained 1½ games ahead of Miami in the battle for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The loss was the fourth in five games for the Cavs. Bobby Phills led Cleveland with 17 points and Mark Price had 15 points and 14 assists. But the Cavs lost point guard Terrell Brandon for the rest of the season with a fractured right tibia.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 25 points and Harold Miner added 18 as the Heat rallied for a 93-92 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers, keeping their Eastern Conference playoff hopes alive.

Dana Barros scored 22 points for the 76ers and extended his consecutive games record with at least one 3-pointer made to 48. He finished the game 3-of-7 from 3-point range.

In Denver, Eddie Jones scored five of his 19 points in a key 7-0 fourth-quarter run to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 104-101 victory over the Nuggets.

Nick Van Exel scored 19 points and Elden Campbell added 17 for the Lakers, who have won three straight games and eight of their last nine to solidify their hold on sixth place in the Western Conference.

Reggie Williams scored 2 points and Dale Ellis added 20 for Denver, which saw it four-game winning streak halted.

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored a season-high 33 points to lead the Trail Blazers to a 95-91 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The win was only the second in eight games for the Blazers, while the Timberwolves lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Isaiah Rider scored 5 points and Christian Laettin added 18 to pace the Minnesota attack.

In Sacramento, Walt Williams scored 30 points as Mitch Richmond added 17. The Kings downed Houston 101-94, snapping a 10-game losing streak to the Rockets. The Kings improved to 37 to pull into a tie with Denver for the eighth in a final playoff berth in the west.

Clyde Drexler scored 20 points and Kenny Smith added 19 for Houston, who has lost four of its last five games.

Sonics' guard grant leave

Seattle SuperSonics guard Kendall Gill, who quarrel with coach George Karl much of the season over playing time, was granted a definite leave from the National Basketball Association team on Tuesday cause of clinical depression.

A brief statement issued by Sonics president Wally Kerk said the diagnosis confirmed by two doctors. Gill did not accompany team to Utah for the game against the Jazz.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
4 TAVAN HIRSCH
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APRIL FOOL

Neither vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ 2
♥ A K Q 10 8 5 4
♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ Q 7
WEST
♠ 9 6 3
♥ A K Q 4 2
♦ A J 10 6 3
♣ A J 9 8
SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 6 5
♥ 8
♦ J 5
♣ 5 4 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 3 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
How you play a hand can depend on the quality of the opposition. Suppose that you were invited to compete in an event with the world's top players. Would that affect your approach to this puzzle?

With spades as trumps and decided that three spades was high enough.

Defending against three spades, West called the king and ace of diamonds, then shifted to a low club. East won the ace and returned a club to West's king. Now West shifted to a heart. Over to you.

a one-trick set.

The declarer who failed might have asked themselves why. In East held the queen of spades, if defenders had not made sure that would score the setting trick. Leading a third club, forcing declarer to spend dummy's trump by ruffing. The answer was that declarer would have to play to drop the queen of trumps. If that was not what the defenders wanted, it was obvious that was what declarer should do. Those who spurned the finesse earned a well-justified top score.



Sabatini in Florida

ISLAND, Florida — Gabriela Sabatini, ranked by a player in the world, played against Maria Sanchez and Lombardi. Sabatini has played in the last seven Bausch Leagues, fought off 40-15 deficits to keep her from winning a set.

She rolled to the easy win in 59 minutes — her career match against Sabatini, who is ranked No. 7 in the world, was the second round match. Sabatini, seeded second, ranked No. 7 in the world, fought back from 40-15 deficits to keep her from winning a set.

Sabatini said she felt she was a bit awed at the match. "Probably, I think that was a difference," she said.



World No. 7 Gabriela Sabatini

"She's never played against me and I'm from the same home. I was expecting her to be a little nervous. But she tried her best. She made a lot of errors."

Sabatini's third-round match will be against another Argentine, Bettina Fulco-Vilella, who upset 10th-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-1, 6-4, Tuesday. And Sabatini could face yet another Argentine, No. 6 seed Ines Gorrochategui, in the quarterfinals.

Cecchini was one of four seeds to lose Tuesday. The most prominent upset was No. 4 seed Judith Wiesner of Austria, who lost 7-6, 6-4 to Katarzyna Nowak of Poland.

Other seeded players beaten were No. 11 Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, who lost 6-1, 6-2 to Silvia Farina to Italy, and No. 14 Larisa Neiland of Latvia, who retired with a sprained ankle while trailing Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain 6-2, 2-0.

The only seeds to win beside Sabatini were No. 9 Irina Spilica of Romania, who stopped Sarah Pitkowski of France, 7-6, 6-4; Gorrochategui, who rallied past Tami Whitlinger-Jones of the United States, 6-3, 0-6, 6-3; and No. 15 Chanda Rubin of the United States, who beat Adriana Serra-Zanetti of Italy 6-2, 6-1.

Juventus stunned by Borussia Dortmund while Parma win at Leverkusen

PARIS (AFP) — An all Italian UEFA Cup final between league leaders Juventus and second placed Parma took a severe knock when Borussia Dortmund stunned Juventus in Milan with a 2-2 draw in their semi-final first-leg match Tuesday night.

The Germans twice took the lead in a bad tempered match and it was only a goal three minutes from time from Juventus' German defender Jurgen Kohler that allowed the Italians a draw.

Borussia went one up when midfielder Stefan Reuter opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Although Juventus pulled level thanks to a Roberto Baggio penalty in the 28th minute, his first attempt at a spot kick since his dramatic miss for Italy in the World Cup final against Brazil, Borussia went back in front in the 70th minute through their ex-Italian league player Andreas Moller.

Moller took advantage of the space being left by the pushing Juventus defence to unleash a blistering 30-yard shot that Angelo Peruzzi had no chance of stopping.

It was a match where neither side was prepared to take any prisoners. Dortmund had five bookings, including Karsten Riedle and Matthias Sammer who will now miss the return leg in a fortnight's time because of previous bookings.

Juventus' Moreno Torricelli will also miss the next match after getting his mar-



Fernando Couto of Parma stretches for the ball as he attacks Leverkusen's Paulo Sergio (right) during their first leg semi-final UEFA Cup match. Parma won 2-1 (AFP photo)

ching orders when he collected his second yellow card of the game in the dying seconds.

But if the result was a blow to the Italian side their decision to play in AC Milan's San Siro stadium proved to be the financial success they had hoped for.

Club officials, fed up by low attendances in Turin for UEFA Cup matches, decided more people in Milan would

turn out to cheer them on. They were correct — 80,000 fans packed the stadium.

But if Juventus were struggling their league rivals Parma were overcoming Bayern Leverkusen in Germany after falling behind halfway through the first half.

Leverkusen, boosted by the return of Bernd Schuster, took the lead in the 29th minute through a goal by

Brazilian Paulo Sergio who half-volleyed home a corner.

But a five minute spell early in the second half saw Parma, despite missing defender Luigi Appollini and suspended striker Marco Branca, snatch two goals to give Bayer Leverkusen a mountain to climb in the second leg.

The Italian's first goal came when German defender Marcus Happe failed to pick

up Dino Baggio in the 48th minute. The Italian World Cup star made no mistake to level the score.

Five minutes later Faustino Asprilla collected a pass from defender Alberto Di Chiara and hammered it past goalkeeper Rudiger Vollborn.

It was a perfect return for Asprilla who had been suspended for Parma's quarter-final meeting with Denmark's Odense.

Depleted Chelsea face Real test

LONDON (AFP) — Chelsea's first leg of the Cup semi-final against Real Zaragoza with injured midfielders De-Wise and Eddie Newton, currently on the bench following his conviction for assault and criminal damage, has missed seven chances with a torn thigh.

Newton, out for four weeks with a hamstring problem, also sat out the return against the Belgians which Chelsea clinched a 2-1 aggregate win, thanks to goals from Marko Stein and Purlong in the 2-0 and leg victory at Stamford Bridge.

The unavailability of two English-born players is a blow for Hoddle but the Chelsea manager was given a boost when Gavin Peacock laid himself fit after injury.

Hoddle said of Wise and Newton: "Their absence means my options for team selection are reduced."

But Hoddle now looks set to start with Kevin Peacock in goal rather than the Russian Dmitri

Kharike, allowing the use of more "foreign" outfield players to accommodate UEFA's selection guidelines.

The Chelsea manager has also ordered his players to keep their cool in Thursday's match against opponents, who have gained a reputation for intimidation and rough play, with 10 players dismissed this season.

The West London club are also confident they will avoid the damaging scenes of mass arrests and deportations which marred their trip to Bruges.

Hundreds of their followers were prevented entry into Belgium and others were kicked out of the country before the game against Bruges.

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SAN DIEGO (AP) — A basic tenet of America's Cup competition is that whoever holds the trophy can change the rules.

There was supposed to be a knockout race Tuesday between Dennis Conner and America's mostly women's team. But both crew were still alive after the race because the three defence syndicates agreed not long before race time that everyone would get into the finals.

America's Mighty Mary won by 5 minutes, 59 seconds. The 15 women and one man did not know the

deal had been cut and celebrated as if they had eliminated Conner. Actually all they accomplished was to win one bonus point for the final.

The three defence syndicates, with the blessing of the San Diego Yacht Club's defence committee, made the

change because they felt the controversy over Conner's mid-round change of a damaged keel had affected the competition.

"The San Diego Yacht Club can agree to do it in a different way than they started out," said Chuck Nichols, president of America's Cup '95.

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JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 20F/95 insurance of fertiliser industrial complex in Aqaba against fire and allied perils. The tender documents are available at JPMC office in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday April 13th, 1995, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (60) for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Monday, April 17th, 1995.
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Managing Director

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THE EMBASSY OF ITALY ANNOUNCES
The starting of Italian Classes, all levels on 15 April 1995, at "COLLEGIUM TERRAE ANCTAE" in Jabal Lweibdeh on Saturday, Monday, Wednesday from 4 to 5.30 and from 6 to 7.30 p.m.
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Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12.30, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15		Jala Fahmi, Kamal Shinnawi Najah Al Mawji ... In TATA WARIKA AND MR. KATHEM shows: 12.30, 3.30, 5.00, 8.30, 10.30		CONCORD '1' Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.30, 11.00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damm STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 5.45, 11.00		Musa Hijazin "Sum's" In the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawagha daily on 8.30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Halfa Al Agha In the children's play ★ ★ Sa'd's Return ★ ★	Shows of "Qirbeh Makhzouqa" will be stopped from now until further notice.	Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8.30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays

Security high in Tehran after riots

AKBAR ABAD (Agencies) — Armed riot police patrolled two suburbs of Tehran on Wednesday where an eerie calm reigned after riots in which several people were killed and dozens more wounded by security forces.

Plain-clothes police arrested a number of young men in the centre of Akbar Abad, a poor suburb where witnesses said security forces shot dead at least 10 demonstrators and wounded dozens more in a riot over price rises Tuesday.

Security was also tight in Islamshahr, about 10 kilometres away, following clashes in which a petrol station was set ablaze, bank windows smashed and a government refrigerated warehouse pillaged.

Authorities did not give any details of casualties in the riots.

About 100 people besieged the main police station in Islamshahr seeking news of the victims, and about 50 did the same in Akbar Abad on Wednesday.

Security forces guarded the two hospitals of Islamshahr, preventing correspondents from entering.

Others carried out checks on cars travelling between the two suburbs.

Iranian television showed pictures of several thousand pro-government demonstrators marching through Islamshahr on Wednesday.

The riots were the most serious for several months that have seen disenchantment growing with the government's economic policies, blamed by the poor for inflation put conservatively by officials at about 40 per cent a year.

The riots were sparked by a protest by about 200 youths from nearby Akbar Abad who gathered in Islamshahr to demand better fresh water supplies and complain about bus fare increases, residents said.

Residents said the bus fare increases that followed the doubling of fuel prices last month were reversed on Wednesday and new buses were introduced on a line between Islamshahr and Tehran in a clear bid to appease angry residents.

Witnesses said that in Tuesday's action, the youths were joined by local people and the demonstration turned into a wider protest against hardship, including the doubling of fuel prices.

Men and women marched across the district shouting slogans against the government and high prices, residents said.

Meanwhile thousands of pro-government marchers took to the streets of southern Tehran, Iran's state-run media said.

The marchers of the rally organised by the government-backed Association of Muslim Students carried photographs of Iranian leader Ali Khamenei and President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and banners condemning Tuesday's protest, the media said.

Tehran Radio said the marchers in Islamshahr wanted "to condemn the action of a number of opportunists who had taken advantage of the legitimate demand of the people about transport and water problems."

The radio said they chanted "Death to America," and "death to Israel."

Iran's government often organises pro-regime demonstrations immediately following popular unrest.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Tuesday that a protest in Islamshahr over water shortages erupted into violence but made no mention of casualties.

Wednesday's newspapers reported the same, although the Abar daily said several protesters were arrested following attacks on government vehicles.

Residents said the bus fare

8 killed as Kurdish mourners attack Red Crescent vehicle in N. Iraq

DOHUK (Agencies) — Three Turks and five Kurds were killed when a crowd of Kurdish mourners attacked a car carrying Turkish Red Crescent aid workers near here on Wednesday, Kurdish and Turkish officials said.

The Kurds attacked the car at a petrol station as they travelled from their village Adadi to Dohuk in northern Iraq for the funeral of seven shepherds they say were killed by Turkish troops.

More than 200 mourners were travelling in cars and buses from the shepherds' village, Azadi, when they spotted the Red Crescent Landcruiser — distinguished by a white flag with a red crescent — as it filled up with petrol, said witness Mustapha Hussein.

The started stoning the vehicle, shouting that it was transporting the Turks who killed the shepherds.

One of the Turks opened fire with a pistol, killing instantly four brothers of one

of the dead shepherds, witnesses said. A fifth Kurd died later in hospital while another is still in serious condition.

The rest of the crowd "went mad" and attacked the car, grabbing the machineguns of the Turks' two Kurdish guards, who ran off, and turning them on the Turks, witnesses Mahmoud Hussein said.

A representative of the Turkish Red Crescent who refused to be named said that the Turks were aid workers involved in the food distribution programme the organisation started in Zakho on Monday.

However, Kurds outside the Red Crescent office in Dohuk charged that the dead Turks were either members of the Turkish Intelligence Service (MIT) or plainclothes members of a special Turkish military team.

They said the team arrived at the office in Dohuk early Wednesday and then left in

one of the organisation's cars.

On Tuesday, Kurdish officials and villagers said that Turkish troops had abducted, killed and mutilated the seven Azadi shepherds who includes a father and son.

The accusations were denied by the Turkish Foreign Ministry which blamed the atrocity on the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), saying it bore its hallmark.

The European Union (EU) meanwhile, called on Turkey to withdraw its troops "as rapidly as possible" from northern Iraq, where it has been waging an offensive against the PKK since last month.

In a statement the French EU presidency repeated its "pressing concern" over the military operation, which has sparked protests from international human rights groups.

The 15-member EU "reaffirms the need for a strict respect of human rights and

international humanitarian rights, and asks for the withdrawal of Turkish troops as rapidly as possible," the statement said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duce said the troika country's ambassadors in Ankara had contacted the Turkish Foreign Ministry Wednesday morning to convey the EU's concerns.

The statement noted that representatives of the troika group of EU countries — France, Germany and Spain — had told Ankara during a visit on March 23 of the "risk to civilian populations, in particular refugees" posed by the action.

The offensive by Ankara, in which it has sent 35,000 soldiers into northern Iraq to destroy PKK bases, is the largest since the PKK launched a guerrilla war in southern Turkey in 1984 aimed at establishing a separate Kurdish state.

It would then be possible, said Dr. Abdul Meguid to enter "into negotiations to finalise an accord for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region in the interest of both the Arab and Israeli sides, as well as the cause of global stability."

Dr. Abdul Meguid also called for reforms in the Arab League Charter to provide for a more "effective approach to crisis management" among member states to deal with such situation as occurred during the Gulf war.

Changes, he said, might include additions or "substantial amendments to the very text of the charter."

"The most crucial such aspect may be the lack of an institutionalised Arab mechanism for the peaceful settlement of inter-Arab disputes, hence the need for establishing an Arab court of justice with judicial powers and with competence to deliver legal opinions."

"We should not delude ourselves into assuming that goodwill alone would suffice," he said.

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Dogs cleared in sagging lamp-post protest

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Beijing protests Lee's trip to Mideast

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday protested Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui's trip to the Middle East, only the fourth foreign trip to Taiwan since he took office in seven years because of opposition from the rival Communist government in Beijing.

Mr. Lee returned Tuesday from a three-day visit to Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. It was the first trip to the Middle East by a Taiwanese president since 1977.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and objects to foreign countries playing host to its leaders. Taiwan has diplomatic relations with only 29 countries.

Like Mr. Lee's other overseas trips, this one was low-key and billed as a vacation to spare his hosts stronger Chinese protests.

"Lee Teng-hui's so-called private visit to those countries which have diplomatic ties with China... was an attempt to create two Chinas or one-China, one-Taiwan in the international arena," the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"We are strongly opposed to such things, and this is our consistent position," it said, through a spokesman. "We have already stated China's solemn and just position to and lodged a protest with the relevant Middle East countries on this point."

Both Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recognise China, but Taiwan's national flag flew at the hotels where he stayed.

Still, Mr. Lee said, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan was unable to receive him because of protests from China, while King Hussein was away during Mr. Lee's stay.

Mr. Lee did meet with Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah and in the UAE with Crown Prince Khalifa.

Mr. Lee refused to disclose what substantial gains his visit would produce, saying: "Media exposure will only make things harder for ourselves."

He said he had no idea why attraction's financial boom, whom he identified only as a Russian businessman, was in Moscow. Mount Rushmore, a cold's head was lying in a side, doused with newly finished. His golden brown was scratched, apparently transit.

Vietnam finds third specimen of new animal

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi minister in UAE for military talks

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday for talks on military cooperation, the official news agency WAM reported. Prince Sultan was accompanied by a large military delegation. His visit comes against the backdrop of the UAE's island dispute with Iran and plans by Gulf Arab states to bolster a joint army they set up 10 years ago. The Peninsula Shield comprises between 10,000 and 15,000 troops drawn proportionately from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. The six members agreed to beef up the force after it made no move when Iraqi forces stormed Kuwait on August 2, 1990. They were ejected by a U.S.-dominated coalition seven months later. "Prince Sultan will discuss development of the Peninsula Shield," the London-based Al Hayat newspaper said.

Mubarak to meet with Assad after U.S. trip

CAIRO (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak is to meet his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad after returning from the United States, a government newspaper said Wednesday. Mr. Mubarak told the U.S. Congress' Foreign Affairs committee that he would discuss with Mr. Assad ways to break the deadlock in the talks between Israel on one hand, Syria and Lebanon on the other, the Al Ahram daily added. The Middle East peace process is one of the main topics on Mubarak's agenda during his visit to Washington, where he was to meet President Bill Clinton on Wednesday. His last meeting with Mr. Assad took place last December in Alexandria, and was also attended by Saudi King Fahd. The summit expressed support for Syria's position in the negotiations with Israel.

Settlers saw down Palestinians' trees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Jewish settlers have cut down around 1,500 olive, fig and almond trees belonging to Palestinian farmers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Centre for Non-Violence said Wednesday. The farmers watched helplessly as the armed settlers set to work with saws, but filed a complaint at the Bethlehem police station and asked for the municipality's help, the center added in a statement. The settlers said the trees had been planted in public plots given by Israel's government to their settlement, Maale Amos, in the south of the West Bank. They also argued the trees, which were cut down in the past few days, were too old to be uprooted. The Palestinian Centre of Non-Violence supports peaceful action against Israel. It was set up in 1986 by a U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin, Mubarak Awad.

Israeli customs confiscates pencil boxes

TEL AVIV (AP) — It is not the sharp compasses and pencils, but a cover map describing Israel as "Palestine" that has prompted authorities to confiscate thousands of Pencil boxes destined for the Gaza Strip. The metal cases appeared in a photograph in the Maariv daily Wednesday under a caption entitled "Dangerous pencil boxes." Israel's customs authority said the 18,000 Chinese-made boxes shipped to the southern port of Ashdod this week would be held indefinitely because of drawings on the cover highlighting a map of the Arab World, with Israel labelled as "Palestine." The customs authority was waiting for instructions from the government.

2 missing Kuwaitis found in Iraqi prison

KUWAIT (AP) — Two Kuwaitis who went missing near the border in February are in an Iraqi prison awaiting trial, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) disclosed Wednesday. Speaking on condition of anonymity, an ICRC official said the men, Ahmed Al-Azimi, 17, and Mohammed Al-Azimi, 20, had been captured by Iraqi forces and were "in good condition." He refused to say where in Iraq they are being held, or elaborate on the circumstances of their arrest.

Egypt, Israel may form panel on NPT row

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt and Israel may form a joint committee to resolve their dispute over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Wednesday.

"A joint Egyptian-Israeli committee could be set up to discuss this issue and try to reach an accord," Mr. Mubarak told the Los Angeles Times. The interview was also carried by the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram.

Mr. Mubarak, currently visiting the United States, was due to hold talks with President Bill Clinton Wednesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres are to meet in Paris on Thursday in renewed bid to settle the dispute.

Israel, believed to possess about 200 nuclear warheads, has not signed the NPT, which comes up for renewal at a U.N. conference in New York later this month.

Egypt has threatened it will not agree to an unlimited extension of the accord until

around Cairo to alleviate inter-terminable traffic jams — would have further damaged the monuments with more pollution and vibrations.

The agreement apparently ends the six-month dispute, though both sides said more study was needed.

The new highway would wind north of the pyramids, said a statement from Egypt and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Mr. Nouredin declined to say how far away the road would be built or how much it would cost.

The government earlier put the price at \$14.7 million. Mr. Nouredin acknowledged the Egyptian government made a mistake in 1985 when it approved plans for the road near the plateau, listed as one of 440 U.N. world heritage sites. However, he said, the important thing was rectifying the error.

Other long-term hazards to the Giza plateau, including squatter villages, garbage dumps and even military camps, would be dealt with in time, he said.

"There is a social and political aspect. I cannot tomorrow decide to tear down the homes of 10,000 families, we have to make alternative plans for them," he said.

UNESCO has run into similar problems in the past.

Leon Pressouyre, a French member of the team, said restaurants, a highway and parking lots were nearly completely destroyed near Stonehenge in Britain before UNESCO warned of the danger and plans were cancelled.

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"We know whether the problem due to design fault or fatigue but hope to fix as a result of the investigation," a Gateshead official said, amounting to a week-long probe.

FBI informant insists he did not incite bomb plots

NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation's informant refused to testify later in the trial.

His voice is heard on most of the conversations Mr. Salem secretly tape recorded in May and June 1993, when the group allegedly was plotting numerous attacks.

"Did it ever occur to you or did it become clear to you that if you simply stopped encouraging Siddig Ali, he would have abandoned his plan?" Ms. Amsterdam asked.

"No ma'am, he will never abandon the plan," Mr. Salem said.

"Which of the many plans wouldn't he have abandoned?" she asked.

Mr. Salem replied that there were "a lot of plan to destroy the American streets and it started already... because they already had accomplished one, ma'am, or two or maybe three."

"Siddig Ali had already accomplished?" Ms. Amsterdam asked.

"He took part of the World Trade Centre, ma'am," Mr. Salem said.

Mr. Siddig Ali pleaded guilty two months ago and

also because the debate has taken on an aspect of nationalist pride, "Madiba Al Safty, a sociologist at the American University in Cairo, told AFP.

Egypt refuses an indefinite extension of the NPT, to be discussed this month at the United Nations, unless Israel commits to joining the treaty.

The Jewish state, which is reported to have 200 nuclear warheads, says it will not do so until it has signed peace with all Middle East countries.

The stand taken by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and the criticism he has taken from Israel have given him an unprecedented popularity among government ministers.

"Israeli attacks against Musa represent medals on his chest," the pro-Islamist daily Al Ahram, usually not inclined to praising the authorities, wrote recently.

"If a poll were taken on the popularity of politicians, Amr Musa would probably be one of the most esteemed men in the country," the French-language governmental weekly Al Ahram Hebdo said this week.